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WEIGHTY ARGUMENT

The woman who ate and ate for science

PAGE 3

THE PATTEN MYTH

Michael Gove

PAGE 4

FRANCE'S WILD BOAR INVASION

PAGE 10

HOT TICKETS

Critics pick their spring season winners

PAGE 31

Private firms to run failing schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR
THE Government was accused yesterday of preparing for the privatisation of schools after it invited big businesses to run "education action zones" to improve standards in areas of poor performance.

want at least one of the first five to be run by private enterprise. Banks, insurance companies and information technology multinationals as well as education specialists are said to have expressed an interest and talks have been held with a variety of companies, some of them household names.

parents, community groups, businesses and the local authority. School governors will decide whether to join the forum and thus surrender some of their powers. The forum will take over the budgets of all the schools in the zone and will also receive an extra £500,000 - half from the Government and half from the private sector - to raise standards.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary. Much of the extra money is expected to be spent on paying higher salaries to attract outstanding heads and teachers, but the Government hopes that the zones will become the testbed for classroom innovation and bidders will be encouraged to suspend parts of the national curriculum and arrange more work experience for pupils. Pupils will still, however, be required to take national tests.

heads the Government's standards unit, said yesterday that the zones carried potential beyond their numbers and that those who led them "will be helping to invent the future". But the project was denounced by teachers and local government leaders as unacceptable privatisation.

similar experiments in America involving Proctor and Gamble and Arthur Andersen had proved disastrous. "The idea that people who have not been elected to anything, so are not accountable to anybody, should run public services where they have no understanding of what is involved is nonsensical. It sets a very dangerous precedent."

the Midland Bank, Prudential Assurance and London Electricity about a bid to run Lea Valley schools. But even the Conservatives would not have issued such proposals without consultation. Teachers' organisations were also against the scheme. Nigel de Gruchy of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said the Government should be wary. "The substantial additional funds they are to be given should go into raising

Continued on page 2, col 6

'Lady in Lake' husband free as murder case collapses

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MURDER charge against the husband of the "Lady in the Lake" Carol Ann Park, who vanished 21 years ago, was dropped last night owing to a lack of evidence. Only a week before Gordon Park, 53, had been due to appear before magistrates for commitment to Crown Court, the Crown Prosecution Service withdrew their case against the retired school teacher, from Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

down in 70 feet of water in Conistow Water, in the Lake District. After walking free yesterday Mr Park was being reunited with members of his family at a secret address. He has been staying in Tyldesley, near Manchester, since he was formally charged with murder on August 24 last year.



Mr Park walked free



Mrs Park vanished

Table with 2 columns: Category and Price. Includes TV & RADIO, WEATHER, CROSSWORDS, LETTERS, OBITUARIES, SIMON JENKINS, ARTS, CHESS & BRIDGE, COURT & SOCIAL, SPORT, HOMES, CREME.

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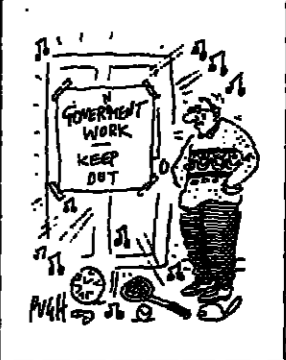


Mick Hucknall, who is likely to join a new music task force, wants a change in copyright laws to protect artists

Mick Hucknall ready to join Blair's band

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND CHRIS AYRES

THE pop singer Mick Hucknall has been asked to join a new task force to review government policy affecting the music industry. The group will be asked to analyse the health of the music industry, to identify areas where its commercial performance could be improved and to consider copyright protection for artists - Hucknall has already called for a change in the law. He has said that he spent £650,000 making the album Stars, but it is still owned by his record company.



BBC and ITV do World Cup deal

The BBC and ITV have reached a deal over which matches they will screen in this year's World Cup finals in France. BBCI will cover the opening match between Brazil and Scotland on June 10 and England's first game, against Tunisia in Marseille on June 15.

Loyalists fail to win over anti-talks Maze prisoners

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Northern Ireland peace process faced a deepening crisis last night after loyalist political leaders failed to persuade their paramilitary associates in the Maze prison to support the Stormont talks. Senior Ulster Democratic Party officials said that the prisoners' hostility to a process they consider heavily skewed towards republicans threatened both the loyalist ceasefire and the party's continued participation in the talks.

persuade the 130 UDA and UFF inmates to drop their opposition to the talks, but emerged speaking of their "complete disillusionment". Prisoners are a key constituency for both loyalist and republican leaders. Having surrendered their freedom for their respective causes, they are considered the consciences of their movements and their views carry great weight outside the prison walls.

Maze prisoners yesterday. His delegation urged the prisoners to stick with the talks until they see how they develop and how the Government responds to their concerns. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, also met Dr Mowlam yesterday. He urged the Irish Secretary to resist Unionist pressure. The Progressive Unionist Party is also threatening to quit the talks, which resume after a month-long break on Monday. It meets David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, in Dublin today.

Sonny Bono dies in ski accident

Sonny Bono, the pop singer who reinvented himself in later life as a Republican congressman, has died in California in a skiing accident. He was 62. His career first peaked with the Sonny and Cher double act in music and on television.

United protest

Sievenage Borough, the non-League football club, will stage the FA Cup fourth-round tie against Newcastle United at their Broadhall Way ground, despite protests from Newcastle.

Muslims want name change for Mecca bingo

By PETER FOSTER

MUSLIM community leaders yesterday asked the owners of a chain of bingo halls to change their name because it was causing offence. The arrival of the Mecca bingo hall in Luton, Bedfordshire, has caused anger and irritation among Muslims who say the use of the name of their holy city in connection with alcohol and gambling is profane.

bingo hall in Bury Park in south Luton was the target of an arson attack in which young Muslims are thought to have petrol-bombed the electric Mecca sign. On Christmas Day, 15 windows were smashed by vandals in what police believe was a similarly motivated attack. At the talks, Muslim leaders requested that Rank, which owns 135 bingo halls across the country, consider altering the name of their Luton outlet in respect for the feelings of the local community. Two enterprising Victorian merchants who chose the name Mecca for

their new coffee house in 1884 could not have foreseen the trouble it would cause in the multi-cultural Britain of the 1990s. More than 100 years after the founding of the Mecca Smoking Cafe in London it has fallen foul of Luton's 10,000 Muslims. Rank points out that it has used the name commercially for more than a hundred years and decided to change the name of their Luton outlet from Top Rank as part of a nationwide project to consolidate Rank and Mecca bingo halls, which merged in 1990. After yesterday's meeting the Rank representatives declined to com-

ment but said they felt the talks had been constructive. Mr Akbar Khan, secretary of the Islamic Society in Luton, said that at least their case had been heard. Last night, in a nearby fast-food outlet Mary, 55, who has worked in Bury Park for 20 years, was adamant the hall where she plays bingo twice a week should keep its name. "A couple of years ago they wanted to rename a street where they had a mosque Kashmir Street, but everyone objected and we put a stop to it. I just hope they don't burn it down while I'm in there," she said.

5 facts section with a large portrait of a woman and text about various topics.



# Fat is fanciable, says the body of evidence

An academic gorged herself until she was 15 stone to test reactions on a weighty subject. Paul Wilkinson and Damian Whitworth report

AN ACADEMIC has deliberately gorged herself fatter, to conduct a worldwide study of reactions to her appearance as she gradually stims again. But Elizia Volkman, 26, has already discovered that fat can be beautiful. She said: "I had the most unbelievably good-looking man chat me up."

Confidence and self-awareness are what make people glow. Miss Volkman, who has a background in fine arts and media, calls her project Forbidden Bodies and describes it as an "art-life" performance. She hopes to make it part of a MPhil degree course on body sculpting. She speaks with authority on the problems of dieting and eating. When she was a boarding school, she suffered from bulimia: "I used to get very stressed about putting on weight and trying to lose weight. Putting on weight made it a personal thing to conquer that."

She originally weighed 11 stone, and said: "The project explores two of the forms of the female body which contemporary Western society judge to be taboo: the fleshy, fecund mother form, once celebrated by Renaissance painters and ancient mother, or goddess colts, and the the muscled, hard masculine-ised physique of the athlete, which challenges the male ideal. I suppose I am saying that the super models like Cindy Crawford are freaks and we should be looking at a different kind of body as the perfect one, something perhaps a stone above your ideal weight provided you are fit."



Before and after: the actress Toni Collette, who 'bulked up' for the film *Murie's Wedding*



The academic has previously received sponsorship from Yorkshire and Humberside Arts, and her work has been exhibited in galleries in Berlin, the Midlands and the North, and the ICA in London. Anne McNeill, artistic director of Photo 98, of which this project

is part, said: "She is using her body as a canvass." In the arts world, the most famous proponent of "bulking up" was Robert De Niro, whose starring role in *Raging Bull* required an extra 50lb. Recently De Niro worked on *Cop Land* with Sylvester Stallone, who also needed extra weight. De Niro advised him to follow his own example: Stallone said: "They'd make 30 pancakes in the morning. In between takes, I would have four." The British actress Minnie Driver gained 20lb to play a plump girl in love in *Cyrle of Friends*, and the supermodel Elle Macpherson, deemed too slyph-like for her role in *Sirens*, was required to put on a similar amount before she took her clothes off for the cameras. One of the most remarkable transformations from thin to faty and back again was achieved by Toni Collette. She was regarded as too svelte and glamorous to play the frumpy lead in *Murie's Wedding*. But eventually she persuaded the director, PJ Hogan to take her. "Every time she opened her mouth I put a doughnut in it," he said. She ballooned from a size ten to an 18. After filming, Hogan hired a personal trainer for her. When she turned up at the premiere, nobody recognised her. Miss Volkman's website address will be www.backspace.org/futurephysical



Elizia Volkman at work: "An unbelievably good-looking man chatted me up"

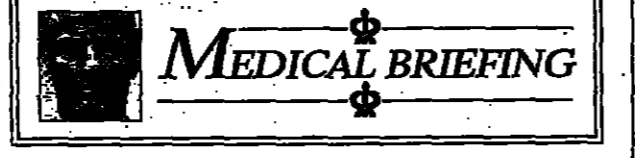
## Man lost as L-plate car goes over cliff

A LEARNER driver leapt from a car seconds before it plunged 150ft into the sea from a clifftop car park with her boyfriend inside. The 24-year-old man, who is believed to have been driving her a driving lesson, was missing presumed dead last night after rescue services failed to find the vehicle in stormy seas. A coastguard spokesman said: "The young man was reaching the girl to drive and she was in the driving seat when the car went out of control." Cliff-top rescue teams and a navy diver searched for the Ford Fiesta at St Agnes Head in Cornwall yesterday afternoon. The woman was last night being treated in hospital for shock. The car crashed through a 1ft-high granite wall at the edge of the isolated car park. Mike North, the coastguard sector manager, said its cliff rescue man spotted clothing in the sea after being lowered down the drop. The navy diver had to be lowered into the inshore lifeboat and he swam from there towards the foot of the cliff. But with a 15ft swell and debris on the surface he wasn't able to see his hand in front of his face. The only way he could have found the car was to bump into it. We have called off the search because it is too dangerous. The car is thought to be in 30ft of water and will be submerged even at low tide.

## Moderate menu beats feasting and fasting

NINETY-FIVE per cent of people who diet soon regain their lost weight. Anything that Elizia Volkman can discover to help them to maintain a lower weight and a healthier pattern of eating will please them, their doctors and the Department of Health in its recent crusade to slim the population. She may provide valuable data that could explain why intermittent feasting and fasting which causes the patient's weight to yo-yo is more dangerous than being persistently moderately overweight. The intention when following a diet should be to lose about two or three pounds a week and to have a balanced diet. Gradual weight loss is thought to be more likely to change a pattern of eating, but the diet must maintain the user's normal electrolyte balance, in particular blood levels of sodium and potassium, and lean muscles. A diet which, because of too little carbohydrate, results in excessive protein loss or initially contains too little protein not only produces wasting of

the limb muscles, which in older people can be difficult to reverse, but may cause a permanent loss of heart muscle or irretrievably damage the kidneys. The accepted view is that a slimming diet should contain not less than 800 to 1,000 calories daily. As a very low calorie diet causes a loss of appetite after a few days of near starvation, strict diets were recommended by continental doctors for a time in the 1930s and 1970s. In cases of a strict diet that has not been carefully balanced, changes can be seen in the ECG (heart) tracing which sometimes lead to potentially lethal ventricular arrhythmias and sudden death. The greatest protein loss, and therefore nitrogen imbalance, occurs in the first 14 days of starvation. When the carbohydrate intake is drastically reduced, even though the dieter is not starving, the body will derive energy by metabolising its own lean muscle with potentially disastrous results. When carbohydrate intake is inadequate, the body takes five or six weeks to adapt, a process that is unlikely to benefit long-term health. Heavy dieting in women influences ovulation and periods. It is the diet, coupled with a heavy exercise schedule, rather than weight loss which inhibits ovulation and prevents periods. The periods stop when the diet begins and even before weight loss is achieved.



By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

## Motorists arrested drunken doctor

A HOSPITAL consultant who was so drunk that motorists surrounded her car and confiscated the keys before making a citizen's arrest was facing a jail sentence last night. Sarah Scott-Barrett was found to be nearly four times over the legal limit after other drivers forced her to stop at traffic lights and hemmed in her car to prevent her escape. The consultant radiologist at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital was driving her Volkswagen Golf so erratically that motorists forced her to stop on a busy road outside Norwich five days before Christmas. Scott-Barrett, 37, a divorcee, admitted drink-driving yesterday and magistrates at Norwich gave her an interim driving ban and told her she could be sent to jail when she is sentenced on February 4. Hospital authorities said they would not make a decision on her future until then. In the meantime she would



Sarah Scott-Barrett: likely to be jailed

## Bonds of the Navy recruit 007 fans

THE Royal Navy's recruitment of Commander James Bond to persuade young people to join up and see action around the world has proved an unprecedented success. Navy recruiting posters carry a silhouette of 007 and the words, "Feared by his enemies, adored by the nation, trained by the Navy". Recruitment posters handed out at 200 cinemas showing the new Bond film, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, are being filled in and sent back from all over the country. A Royal Navy spokesman said yesterday that 60,000 people had called up a Commander Bond Website, which is headed "For Your Eyes Only". It includes a brief storyline from 24 Royal Navy and Royal Marine serving personnel who are all called Bond.

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# Has-been critics cannot blackmail me, says Hague

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

A DEFIANT William Hague declared yesterday that he would not be blackmailed over the single currency by Tory grandees who had "had their day". The Tory leader said that he would stand up to pro-Europeans such as Lord Howe of Aberavon, Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke, even if it meant some members leaving the party.

Mr Hague was commenting on a letter in *The Independent* on Monday, signed by a dozen senior Tories, including Chris Patten, Sir Edward Heath and Sir Leon Brittan. They urged the Tory leader to scrap his policy that Britain should not adopt a single currency for ten years.

Yesterday, Mr Hague dismissed many of his critics as has-beens, and made clear that he would not be deflected from his hardline policy, which has already resulted in the resignation of two members of his Shadow team, David Currie and Ian Taylor. In an attempt to assert his

authority, he argued that it would be absurd "to be pushed off track by a round robin in *The Independent* on a Monday morning by a dozen people, half of whom have retired".

However, he made an exception of Mr Patten, who is the only signatory who could provide a serious threat to him. Asked whether Mr Patten would also be considered a man who had had his day, Mr Hague said: "I will make an exception for him. I want Chris Patten to return to frontline politics."

Mr Hague vented his anger against the 11 other signatories: "People who have signed this letter have had their day. They have got to accept it. We are moving on now." He would not be deflected from what he believed was right for the country by a handful of "famous people".

Once he was elected Tory leader, he knew it was not going to be an easy ride. "But I am prepared to upset people. I am going to stand up

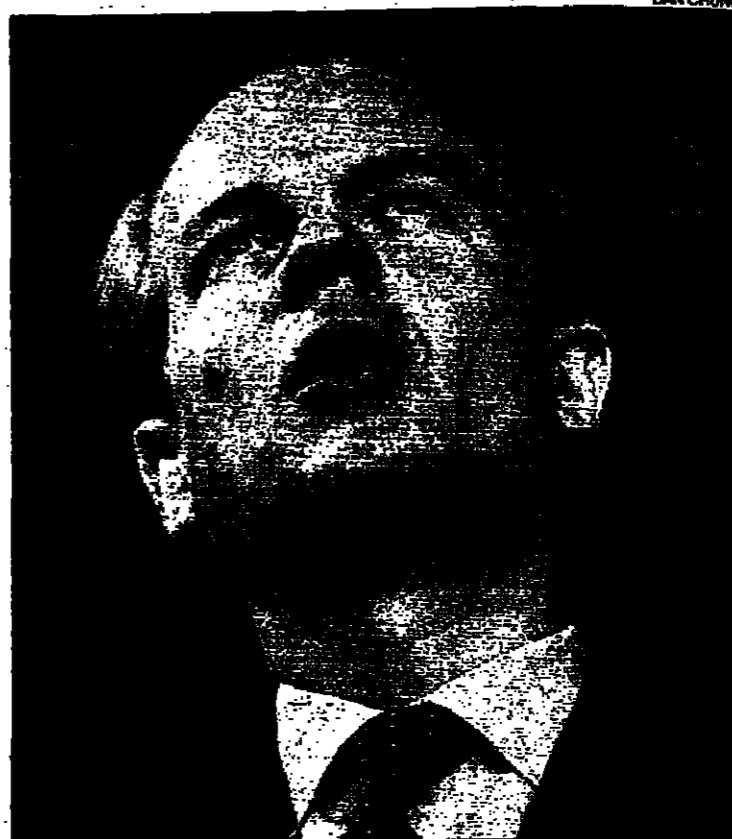
to anybody in pursuit of what I believe in, of what I think is right for this country."

He said that it was better to have the arguments now and to put the policy to the vote of the entire Tory party. It is still unclear when the members' ballot will be held.

Asked about the risk of a split, with the pro-European wing peeling off, Mr Hague said he would not be blackmailed: "I think they want to stay within the Conservative Party and I certainly want them to stay in the Conservative Party, but I'm not going to be blackmailed by anybody."

"I'm not going to be held to ransom. Anybody who says to me, 'You change your policy or I leave the party'—well, the policy will stay the same."

He admitted that he would not be happy if anyone chose to leave the party under those circumstances, but it was more important for the majority of the party to be fighting for



Mr Hague, people who signed letter "have had their day"

what it believed in and to be united behind a clear message.

In a wide-ranging interview, Mr Hague conceded that the peace process in Northern Ireland was at a "delicate moment" but he insisted that he had bent over backwards to support to the Government on the peace initiative. Asked about the arrest of Jack Straw's son for alleged-

ly supplying cannabis, Mr Hague said he was against the legalisation of cannabis. He had never taken the drug himself, but knew "quite a few people who have".

He admitted that the last time he had "a little bit too much" to drink was at his wedding last month.

Grace Bradberry, page 15



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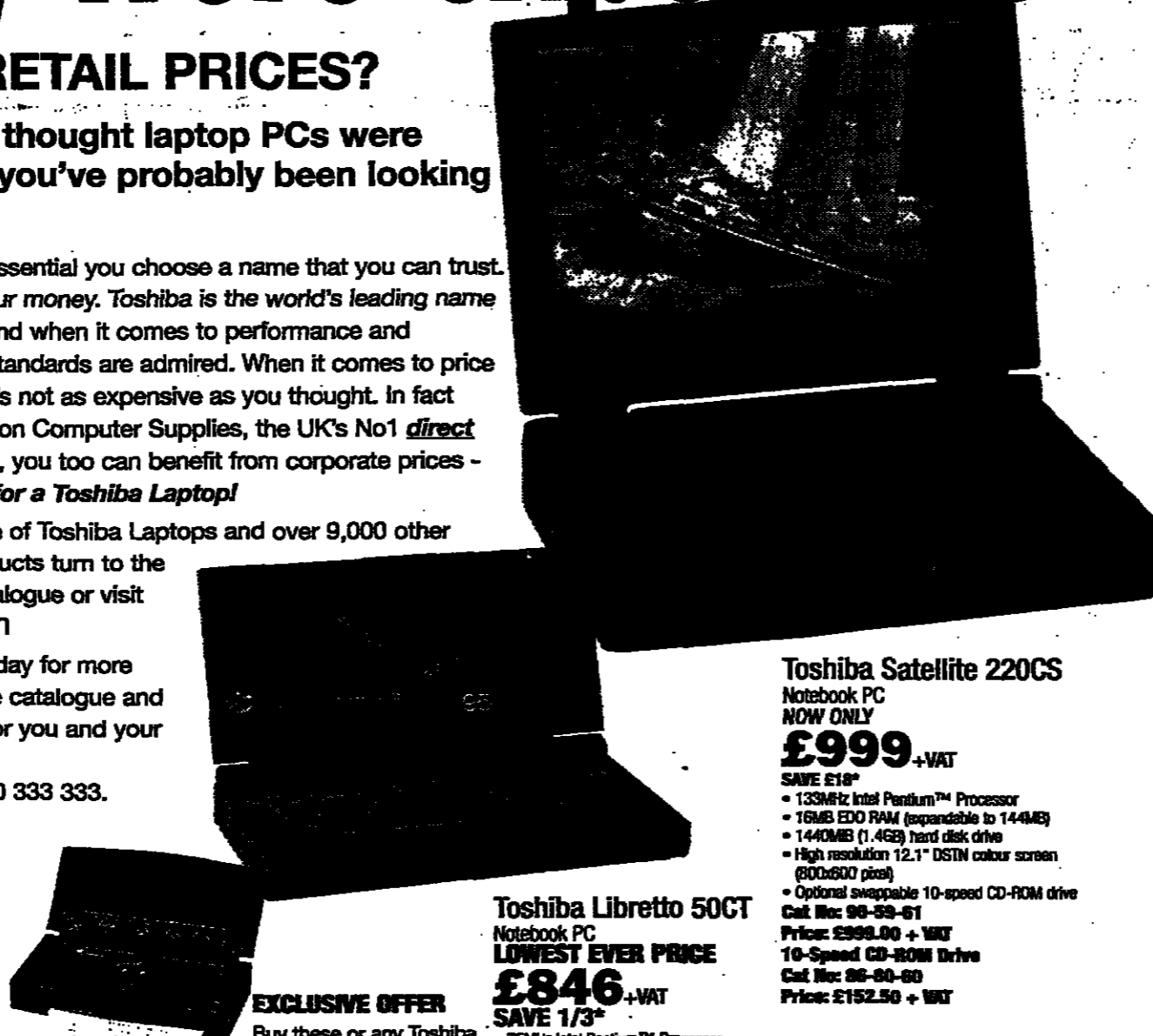
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## Time may yet dull the brilliance of Patten's star

Michael Gove suggests that Chris Patten's political future might be less bright than his supporters believe



He has, with a single signature, become Tony's favourite Tory and William's *hôte noir*. By putting his name to an otherwise unremarkable letter from a dirty dozen Tory Europhiles, Chris Patten has lent dissent a dangerous edge.

Few Conservatives enjoy the respect that Mr Patten has won across the political spectrum. His friends point to him as the architect of the 1992 Tory election victory, who neglected his own seat to serve the party. As Governor of Hong Kong he strove to ensure that one of the last chapters in the Empire's history should not be an ignominious one. His tears when he quit the field, like Gazza's, endeared him to the nation.

Untainted by the compromises and incompetence of the 1992-97 Government he is, in his French farmhouse exile, a plausible King over the Water for those Tories unhappy with the Hague leadership. Those who have worked with him, however, feel that there is a delicious irony in the thought of Mr Patten as a pretender. Several former colleagues are searching critics of a man one characterised as "a brilliant performer whose greatest achievement in office was the creation of his own myth".

Not even Mr Patten's most caustic detractors can deny his gift for presentation. Margaret Thatcher, who inherited him as secretary to her Shadow Cabinet when she became Tory leader, found his views congenial but his talents indispensable. Her compliment was not, however, returned handsomely.

Mr Patten was keener to maintain the good opinion of leftish journalists than his right-wing boss. As one of his colleagues at the Research Department, John Ranelagh, said: "Within the party bureaucracy it was felt essential to hold on to the respect of the media by indicating privately to journalists that the new leader was an aberration on the part of the MPs who elected her..." William Hague could be forgiven for feeling a sense of *déjà vu*.

According to another former colleague, Mr Patten made no secret of his real heroes, Rab Butler, Sir Ian Gilmour and, most curiously of all, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. "He affected this Schmidt-style hat, a sort of peaked corduroy cap as a badge of admiration. He always struck me as admiring those politicians whose hearts were on the Left but

whose heads had come to terms with life's realities." For Mr Patten, Mrs Thatcher's head became increasingly detached from reality as her premiership wore on. Although she promoted him he kept his fastidious distance. By 1989, according to his biographer, Jonathan Dimbleby, he was telling journalists that she was "off her trolley".

With the succession of John Major, Mr Patten was made party chairman. According to one colleague, however, he was more attentive to his standing with the media than his party's. He treated the election campaign as an opportunity to impress the press. To satisfy the tabloid appetite for soundbites he adopted what he called his "demotic mode", slurring Labour for its "porkies" and economic "double whammies".

The phrases resonated with the middle-market dailies but, according to one colleague: "Patten always went out of his way to signal to people from *The Guardian* that this was all an act."

The skill with which he endeared himself to the press disguised a ministerial record which was, like his degree, solidly second-class. One former Downing Street staffer believes that as Schools Minister he made no impact, and as Environment Secretary he was "weak". He leaves no memorial to rank with Ken Baker's Education Bill or John Gummer's green record. He did, however, leave Hong Kong with a golden opinion from many, having encouraged an assiduousness among the former colony's people that China has reluctantly had to respect.

However valuable the legacy, Mr Patten has, in any case, made sure it has been extravagantly gift-wrapped. Few politicians have been able to appoint their best friend to produce a book and television series as official chronicles of their achievement.

Time may see harsher judgments emerge. His criticism of Baroness Thatcher may come to appear a graceless pose for a charming man. The spendthrift election campaign he masterminded in 1992 might be viewed as the cause of subsequent tax rises and the Tories' humiliation. He must hope that time proves him right on the single currency — or the name he appended to Monday's letter will lose even more of its lustre.

Wife dis former E cricketer

Emptiness thooms after th final inning

هكنا من الأهل

# Wife discovers former England cricketer hanged

By PAUL WILKINSON

DAVID BAIRSTOW, the former England and Yorkshire wicketkeeper, has been found hanged at his home.

Friends of the pugnacious, ebullient player, who once equalled the world record of taking 11 catches in a match, said he had been depressed for some time. His second wife, Janet, was undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer and he was still recovering from serious injuries suffered in a car crash. He was due in court next week to face drink-driving charges.

Mr Bairstow, 46, was found dead at the family home near Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, on Monday night, on the eve of his wife's birthday and the anniversary of his father's death. It is understood that his wife discovered his body. Yesterday their two children, Jonathan, eight, and Rebecca, seven, went to school, but Mrs Bairstow was too distressed to speak.

Her father said: "She is absolutely numb and does not want to say anything at all. We are all very upset at what has happened but we don't know the reason for it."

Mr Bairstow's 22-year-old son, Andrew, from his first marriage, travelled to Yorkshire from his home in Manchester to comfort the family. Mr Bairstow's father-in-law said: "David has been very ill. Obviously, he was very worried about Janet. The fact that he was due to appear in court was also of great concern to him."

Mr Bairstow, who was involved in a sports merchandising business and was a frequent cricket commentator on radio, was charged with drink-driving in October after



Bairstow in 1992: he often commented on radio

an accident on the way back from Wetherby races.

Pat Gibson, a cricket writer and friend, said: "I saw him a couple of weeks ago and he was really down. His wife was being treated for cancer and I think they were trying to keep it quiet. Also he had been involved in a very bad car crash. He told me he had nearly lost his arm. Doctors inserted a steel plate in his shoulder and he had 13 screws put in his arm. He said it had completely messed up his golf, which he loved."

Neighbours of the man who skippered Yorkshire between 1983 and 1986 were shocked at his death. Isobel Cassells, landlady of the Punch Bowl Inn near his home, said: "David often came in here. He was always a very pleasant and amiable person."

In a statement Yorkshire Cricket Club said: "He was an outstanding competitor and will be remembered as a great character with a tenacious spirit who never gave less than 100 per cent effort. His uncompromising approach to the

game epitomised the typical Yorkshire spirit at that time and members will recall many outstanding performances during his long career. Our thoughts are very much with his wife and family."

Pat Murphy, a BBC sports commentator, said: "He was a man with the common touch. Everybody knew him and liked him."

Martyn Moxon, a former Yorkshire captain, said: "I'll always remember him behind the stumps with his booming voice shouting at us all in the field, and his competitive spirit. He was a very proud Yorkshireman and would do anything for the cause."

Ray Illingworth, another Yorkshire skipper, said: "I'll never forget the noise he made, both in the dressing room and on the field. He was a tremendous character."

Obituary, page 19



Bairstow in his heyday as a wicketkeeper with a distinctive "booming voice"

# Police look into sudden death of talented student

By PAUL WILKINSON

POLICE are investigating the death of a sixth-former tipped to become the next head boy at one of the country's leading state schools.

John Cliffe, 17, died from asphyxia in his bed on Sunday. He had achieved ten grade A GCSE passes was described as an outstanding pupil by his headmaster at Harrogate Grammar School.

Last night a North Yorkshire Police spokesman said: "At this stage we do not believe that John died from natural causes, but the reasons behind his death must be determined by a coroner."

Kevin McAleese, the headmaster, described John as a perfectionist, but happy and well-balanced, with lots of friends. "He was doing very well and had no worries we are aware of."

John began studying A levels in September after passing his GCSEs last summer. He was an accomplished musician, playing the trombone in the Harrogate Youth Jazz Orchestra. He was also in the school's wind orchestra and swing band. Mr McAleese added: "John had been accepted to become a prefect and his pleasant personality and mature approach made him a very likely candidate for the next Head Boy."



John Cliffe: his death aroused suspicion

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# SPOT THE BALL

Where is everybody?



The North Yorkshire home where Bairstow died

# Emptiness that looms after the final innings

Adrian Lee reports on the extraordinary number of suicides in cricket. One theory is that former players miss not only the camaraderie but the intensity of the game

The history of cricket is scarred by the suicide of at least 25 former Test players. The author David Frith, who devoted an entire book to the subject, said yesterday that no other sport had taken such a terrible toll.

Over the past 20 years he has studied the suicides of more than 100 former Test and county players. Many appear to have been unable to come to terms with the end of their careers and the hum-drum existences that followed.

Mr Frith, who knew David Bairstow, said: "I am afraid the number of suicides is quite huge. Cricket is a game of uncertainties. It obsesses its players all day, unlike football, where the game is over in 90 minutes. When the career is over, it leaves a great emptiness for many."

Mr Frith, whose book *By His Own Hand* was first published seven years ago, said many players used to the camaraderie of the game — touring and whiling the evenings away in the bar — were unable to cope when they retired.

"Cricket is a fraternity," said Mr Frith. "It is a way of life and the loss of companionship is, I think, a large factor. After they finish playing, the only alternative for many is to go off into some dry office."

He said he last met Bairstow two years ago when the former wicketkeeper was selling ties. Still an ebullient character, Bairstow gave no hint of any despair.

Mr Frith said it was possible that former cricketers who were missing the game found it harder to cope with life's crises, such as ill health,

financial problems or domestic strife. Apart from numerous suicides, he had found much evidence of alcohol abuse and marriage break-up.

Cricket's suicides include the England batsman Harold Gimblett, who took an overdose in 1978, aged 64; A.E. Stoddart, who captained England at both cricket and rugby, and shot himself at the age of 51; Albert Trot, the all-rounder who played Test cricket for England and Australia, and shot himself in 1915, at the age of 41; and the Australian batsman Sid Barnes, who took an overdose in Sydney in December 1973. Other England stars who committed suicide were Albert Rel, who shot himself in 1937; George Griffith, who hanged himself in 1879; and William Scotton, who slit his throat in 1893.

Last year the former Indian Test batsman Rusti Modi, 72, fell to his death from the pavilion at Bombay; South Africa's Stuart Leary, who also played football for Charlton Athletic, threw himself off Table Mountain in 1988. Three years ago, Danny Kelleher, who played county cricket for Kent, committed suicide at the age of 29, after an unfulfilled career.

Only in recent years has cricket become lucrative for Test players and Mr Frith, in his final chapter, asks whether the game does enough for those whose careers have ended. He said: "The lucky ones now go into commentating and make this seamless transition. They are still in the public eye and everybody still wants their autographs. If they avoid obscurity, I think they are halfway to living to be 100."

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# Briton leaves Russian jail after serving drug sentence

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

KAREN HENDERSON, the British teenager convicted in December of smuggling 9lb of cocaine into Russia, walked out of a Moscow prison last night after completing a 23-month sentence.

Ms Henderson, 19, said nothing to reporters as she strode out of the women's jail in eastern Moscow to a British Embassy van, accompanied by family members and embassy staff. Her mother, Patricia, who has travelled to every session of her protracted trial in Moscow, expressed her delight at her daughter's freedom. "We are very, very thrilled that she is out," she said. "She told me: 'Oh Mum, I am so happy.'"

But Miss Henderson is not yet free to travel home and could be back behind bars within a week, if the Moscow Municipal Court upholds a prosecution appeal on Tuesday against the leniency of her sentence.

In her original trial in 1996, she was sentenced to six years' imprisonment, but granted a retrial on grounds that poor translation had prevented her from following the proceedings and understanding questions. Last month, the court upheld the original verdict, but took into consideration her age, good behaviour in prison and that she had no previous criminal record. The sentence was reduced to 23 months, leaving her one month to serve.

Her release yesterday came about after hours of wrangling between her defence lawyers and court and prison officials after a court ruling ordered her to be kept in detention pending the outcome of the prosecution appeal. Only after the intervention of the Chief Prosecutor's office, which issued a letter confirming her release, was she finally let out.

"We were very nervous, because it did not seem that Karen would be released today," her mother said. She declined to speculate on the outcome of the appeal, but was clearly optimistic. "We shall



Karen Henderson, left, is embraced on her release by her sister Dawn. She told her mother: "I am so happy"

be celebrating tonight," she said.

Ms Henderson was detained at Sheremetyevo airport on February 6, 1996, after customs officials found 9lb of cocaine hidden in the false bottom of her suitcase. A Dutch fellow passenger, Suzanne Vorstenbosch, who was detained with her after a similar quantity was found in her baggage, pleaded guilty to the smuggling charges and is now completing her second

year of a six-year sentence at a women's labour camp.

Miss Henderson has insisted that she had no knowledge that the drugs were in her suitcase. She maintained an impassive stance during the proceedings, breaking down in tears of relief only when her reduced sentence was announced.

The leniency of the sentence was remarkable by standards in Russia, where a harsh line is almost invariably taken

against drug offenders. One factor thought to have affected the judges' decision was the adverse publicity the case gave to the Russian legal system.

By Western standards, the prosecution case was a shambles, with key witnesses failing to turn up to testify or to remember crucial points in the evidence. Some of the material

evidence against her had been lost, while the cocaine appeared to have shrunk by 165 grams since it was first detected.

The case also drew attention to the appalling conditions in Russia's remand prisons.

Throughout her detention, Miss Henderson was kept in cells with up to 70 women sharing only 20 bunks, two lavatories and an inadequate supply of blankets.

She told her mother that, while she herself had not been physically abused, she saw other prisoners being badly beaten.

## NIGEL HAWKES AT THE GEOGRAPHERS' CONFERENCE

# Nations live down to their stereotypes

THE effete English and the brutal Scots came under fire yesterday as nations that were wedded to outdated and inaccurate images of themselves.

The Scots are all too ready to model themselves on the myth of *Braveheart*, the Hollywood film which portrayed them as courageous and violent, but subject to the yoke of England. Meanwhile the English allow themselves to be portrayed abroad as country gentlemen clad from top to toe in Burberry clothes, their women clinging loyally to their coat-tails.

The image of Scotland, Euan Hague of the University of Syracuse in New York State told the geographers' conference at the University of Surrey, is widely shared by adults and children in the United States. More surprisingly, it is also part of the mental fabric of Scots.

He has carried out a series of interviews in Syracuse and Edinburgh, asking people what they thought Scottishness meant. Without prompting, many cited the characters in *Braveheart*, although those interviewed in Edinburgh tended to do so



Braveheart: Gibson is key image of Scotland

less, and to dismiss the reference with a laugh.

Exactly the same characteristics applied to the film *Trainspotting*, Mr Hague said. Although it concerned a group of Edinburgh drug addicts, like *Braveheart* the leading characters were all white, heterosexual males capable of brutal violence.

"All believe that Scotland was or is struggling against being a colony of England, overlooking the fact that Scots played a major part in

building the British Empire — that they were colonisers themselves," he said. "In both films the only homosexual characters are English."

"No matter how far *Trainspotting* tried to escape from the clichés of Scottishness, it kept slipping back into them. There is no place in this imagined myth of Scotland for women, or for men who don't fit in," he said. "Scots live in one image, but are happy to depict themselves in another."

The English also came under criticism, from Alison Goodrum of Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. She said that the image of Britishness portrayed by the fashion industry — and especially by Burberry — was male-centred and underpinned by the myth that the English lead leisured lifestyles in country houses.

Thanks to the success of Burberry, this image had become "a central signifier of Britishness". It was a staid image in which men were active, and women looked on admiringly. "But it is a very durable image, and people want to buy into it."

# Stick-in-the-muds chided for angering nature lovers

NATURE conservation ignores the public's wishes to preserve beautiful countryside and concentrates instead on obscure species and tiny habitats, the conference was told.

Morecombe Bay was protected not because of its landscape but because it was home to polychaete worms, bivalve molluscs and amphipod crustaceans. Julia Garritt, of Lancaster University, said.

That kind of approach suited the Government because it meant that conser-

vation efforts were targeted, easier to manage and cheaper. But, she said, it puzzled the public, who saw a lot of effort being devoted to small areas while all around countryside under pressure from development was ignored.

"The public is more interested in tranquillity and fresh air than the survival of an obscure species in the mud. As a result, they don't feel that the issues are being properly addressed."

A growing cynicism could end in conservation being discredited, she said. "The

public does not feel that conservation relates to their daily lives, and have an image that nature only exists in special places. It has become a discourse between experts, and locals don't feel part of it."

The Convention on Biological Diversity, agreed at the Rio de Janeiro environmental summit in 1992, had made matters worse by enshrining population ecology as the basis for conservation. This examined individual species rather than the entire ecosystem.

# SSSHH.

A sophisticated diesel should be serene and not heard.

# End of subsidies in sight, minister warns farmers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Agriculture Minister, Jack Cunningham, faced a stormy silence from farmers and was given a stinging rebuke by their leader yesterday when he told them to prepare for a life without subsidy. Mr Cunningham also warned farmers not to expect extra aid for the time being for the hard-pressed beef industry.

His speech, heard in a silence by several hundred delegates at the annual Oxford Farming Conference, provoked a sharp exchange with Sir David Naish, the outgoing president of the National Farmers Union. Rising immediately after Dr Cunningham had finished speaking, Sir David said: "I am heartily sick of being told that farmers must be competitive when we are not being given equal terms of trade."

He called on Dr Cunningham to apply for the £980 million to which Britain's farmers believe they are entitled under European Union rules over the next three years to compensate them for the strong pound. If not applied for by the middle of this month, the first instalment may be forfeited.

Dr Cunningham retorted:

## Tesco says it makes no profit on meat

TESCO, Britain's largest supermarket chain, said yesterday that it was making almost no profit from selling meat. The chain has been accused of squeezing hard-pressed producers' profits and failing to pass on savings to customers.

"It is not simply a question of writing a cheque and picking up some free money from Brussels." Half the compensation would be paid for fully by the British taxpayer and, under EU budget rules, so would 71 per cent of the other half.

In a wide-ranging speech, and in answer to questions afterwards, Dr Cunningham promised to be an impartial chairman of meetings of EU farm ministers during the six months of the British presidency, which began on January 1. This did not prevent him making his strongest attack since taking office on the common agricultural policy.

"Every year we in the EU spend about £30 billion on the CAP," he said. "It infuriates farmers, it angers environmentalists and it upsets consumers. You have got to be pretty stupid to go on spending that amount of money every year, and ending up infuriating everyone and pleasing almost no one."

Dr Cunningham forecast that, within ten years, agricultural production would no longer be subsidised. The only support available would be where certain types of farming were needed to preserve the

into where money in the meat supply chain is going. Tesco has been one of the supermarkets targeted by farmers furious over cheap imported meat. Mr Leahy said 97 per cent of beef sold at Tesco was British and the store paid up to 15 per cent above market prices for its beef. "We make little or nothing on selling meat... we are lucky to break even."

rural environment. Two factors above all, he said, made CAP reform inevitable: pressure from the World Trade Organisation for the removal of subsidies, and the enlargement of the EU to 21 or more member states, many of them former communist countries.

Extending the CAP in its present form to these countries would not only be catastrophically expensive. It would also force them to accept a bureaucratic system "reminiscent of the old command economy that they have so recently and painfully shaken off".

Dr Cunningham was scathing about some of the reforms proposed by Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, who is to address the conference today. In particular, he attacked plans for limiting subsidies to smaller farms.

If this concept were applied crudely across the EU, it would penalise British farms, which on average were two to three times the size of those on the Continent. British agriculture was tough and resilient and would benefit from the withdrawal of subsidy, and the ending of artificial constraints, such as milk quotas, which prevented efficient producers taking their share of growing world markets.

Dr Cunningham promised to work for improved animal welfare across the EU, in particular for the phasing out of battery cages for hens. This prompted a speaker from the floor to accuse the minister of caring more for the welfare of animals than the welfare of farmers.

Dr Cunningham responded angrily that he had represented farmers for 28 years in his Cumbrian constituency. He knew that the poorest farmers there were scarcely better off now than they had been when he first became an MP, despite all the subsidies.

PRICES IN THIS BAR			
WHITBREAD		CITY	
TANKARD	2/0d	DRAGON BEER	1/8d
BITTER	2/0d	PA OF KEE	1/6d
MACKESON TD	2/5d	MILD	1/4d
BOTTLED BEERS			
MACKESON	1/7d	CITY PALE ALE	1/2d
WHITBREAD	1/5d	CITY BROWN ALE	1/2d
FOREST BROWN	1/5d		
OATMEAL STOUT	1/5d		
BREWMASTER	1/5d		
FINAL SELECTION	1/6d		
GOLD LABEL	1/6d		
Other Draught and Bottled Beers			
RASS OF WORCESTER	1/6d	RED BARRON (Worcester)	1/6d
RASS OF WORCESTER	1/6d	SUBURBAN	1/6d
DOUBLE DIAMOND	1/7d	BRUNNEN	1/6d
YOUNGERS JAG	1/7d	CHARLESHEED	1/6d
WATNEY BROWN ALE	1/6d	SWAN	1/6d



The Valiant Soldier is an unaltered relic of the 1960s, right down to the pre-decimal coins in the till, being sorted by Brian Cross, right

## The pub where history called time

Simon de Bruxelles steps into a bar where dominoes and darts have stayed untouched since it closed in 1965

A PUBLIC house that has not changed since last orders were called 33 years ago is to be preserved as a museum. Nothing has been altered in The Valiant Soldier since the landlady, Alice Roberts, locked up for the last time in 1965.

Although she continued living in the property until last year, Mrs Roberts left the two bars she had run for 30 years untouched. Dominoes lie on the table where the last players left them, the scores of a long-forgotten darts game are chalked up beside the board and there are discarded cigarette packets in the ashtrays.

The price list behind the bar shows that a pint of mild cost 1s 4d (7p), a bottle of Guinness was 1s 7d and

those that were not turned into homes or knocked down were gutted or updated. Brian Cross, chairman of a charitable trust set up to preserve the pub as a museum and heritage centre, said: "It is an extraordinary, untouched example of what small-town pubs were like in the 1960s. There is nothing exceptional about it, other than the fact that we believe it to be the only one to have survived unaltered."

"We are hoping to build an archive of oral history from those who still remember it as a pub. There are farthings, ha'pennies, threepenny bits

and sixpences in the till drawer. The pub is full of gems from a time gone by." Mr Cross is compiling an inventory, from the glasses on the bar to the newspapers and magazines stacked on a table. Whitbread's calendar for 1965 is pinned to the back of a door.

Next to the main bar is the smaller lounge with armchairs. "If a courting couple came in, they were generally left alone in the lounge," Mr Cross said. During the war, The Valiant Soldier was popular with American servicemen stationed near by and was later packed with farm-

ers on market days. Mrs Roberts, who is in her eighties, moved into a nursing home last year. Teignmouth Town Council bought the pub to preserve it intact and stop the contents from being auctioned.

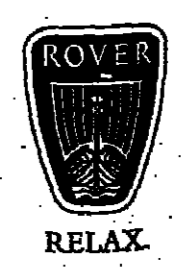
In 1965, Whitbread offered Mrs Roberts, a widow, the freehold of the pub she had run since the 1930s, on condition that she closed it. There were at least 20 pubs in Buckfastleigh (population 3,500) and the brewery is believed to have wanted to cut competition for its other establishments.

Mr Cross is waiting to hear whether an application for £12,000 of National Lottery funding for a feasibility study into the heritage centre scheme has succeeded.

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# 'Diana effect' keeps working for Britain

By MARK HENDERSON

IN HER lifetime, it was known as the Diana effect — the way that the Princess of Wales benefited the image of any organisation associated with her. Now Britain is continuing to use memories of the late Princess to promote the nation's image abroad.

An unprecedented tribute is included in *Britain 1998*, the latest edition of the official handbook to the United Kingdom which is used widely by embassies, foreign newspapers and the British Council.

The handbook, published yesterday, features four pages of colour photographs of the Princess and a much longer obituary than is granted to any other Briton who died during 1997. Nigel Pearce, the editor, said that never before in the handbook's 49-year history had a single person been given so much attention. "This is the first time we have marked out an individual in such a way," he said. "We just felt we had to do this because she was so exceptional." Neither George VI nor Sir

## SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

THE handbook features a rainbow on its cover, right. The statistics include:  
□ Exports of biscuits are worth £287 million a year. Confectionery is worth £567 million.  
□ At birth, life expectancy in Britain is more than 74 years for men and nearly 80 for women. In 1901, it was 49 for men and 52 for women.  
□ Royal Mail International dispatches 805 million items a year.  
□ Worldwide sales of the Spice Girls' album *Spice* exceeded 12 million.  
□ Cinema admissions



were 124 million, double the 1984 figure.  
□ More than 2,500 museums and galleries are open to the public.  
□ More than 100 British sportsmen and women currently hold world championship titles.

Winston Churchill, both of whom died since the publication began, had such a prominent show.

The Office for National Statistics, which produced *Britain 1998* for the first time, also highlighted this year's 50th anniversary of the National Health Service and the

centenary of the Government Art Collection as tools for selling Britain. The book includes a glowing NHS history, and 14 reproductions of works from the art collection, which has more than 12,000 works, mainly by British artists. Eighty-five per cent of the collection is on show around

the world at any time, and it is used to promote British culture through embassies and exhibitions. Founded by the Treasury in 1998, initially to decorate government buildings, it includes works by Hogarth, Gainsborough and Hockney. Items were used for last year's Anglo-French summit at Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

The handbook offers an array of statistics on everything from population and voting at the last election to the number of eggs consumed (9.48 billion a year) and dental visits (130,000 a day in England and Wales). It also features potted guides to issues such as Northern Ireland, BSE, welfare-to-work, and devolution.

Cultural figures identified as particularly important include the Spice Girls and Oasis, playwrights Harold Pinter and David Hare, actors Sir Anthony Hopkins and Vanessa Redgrave, and the novelists Martin Amis and Kazuo Ishiguro. The revival of the British film industry is highlighted through produc-



Image of a nation: the handbook includes these pictures of the Princess visiting service families in Germany

tions such as *Trainspotting* and *The Full Monty*.

In sport, the Euro 96 football tournament is praised as an unqualified success and England and Scotland congratulated on qualification for the World Cup later this year. A series of maps showing Britain's natural resources

has entries for agriculture, oil and gas fields and power stations, but none for coal. Other changes in the fabric of British society are well-illustrated by extensive entries on the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities as well as the Church of England. Britain's place in the world

is identified through the European Union ahead of the Commonwealth and Nato. The Maastricht and Amsterdam treaties are each explained in a couple of paragraphs, and the entry on Economic and Monetary Union states the Government's line that it is not

realistic in this Parliament. The two dependent territories which are most hotly contested, Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands, have the longest entries among 15 remaining dependencies. Britain's continuing peacekeeping role in Bosnia and Cyprus is also included.

# Dyslexic sues law college for exam failure

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A TRAINEE solicitor with severe dyslexia has issued writs against the College of Law and the Law Society accusing them of breach of contract and of duty of care after he failed his finals.

Tom Hughes, a law graduate from Liverpool John Moores University, claims that the college failed to comply with its promises to give him adequate support facilities. Mr Hughes, 35, who is married with two daughters, studied law when injury forced him to retire from the police.

He has already been taken on by a Merseyside law firm, J. Keith Park, which was confident that he would pass the final examinations.

He says the Chester branch of the college told him that systems were in place to cater for his dyslexia, which is described as "seriously handicapping".

"As the course proceeded and the termly exams came up, it became obvious that I

was having difficulties but they said just carry on," Mr Hughes said. "I failed the finals because nothing was done to help me. The support just did not materialise."

An education psychologist's report on Mr Hughes said that he should be given half as much time again in examinations, which should be supplemented by a viva examination. But the college granted him only ten minutes extra and would not allow him a viva, he says.

Denis Whalley, head of litigation at J. Keith Park, said: "The college, and the Law Society, which is responsible for setting the regulations, have not done right by Tom. He was not given what he was promised."

Dave McNeil, a Law Society spokesman, said: "We are confident that we have done nothing wrong and that everything that reasonably could have been done was done."

Nigel Savage, chief executive of the College of Law, said it rejected Mr Hughes's claims. "We have provided as much help as we could and offered further assistance to help Mr Hughes which he failed to take up."

Of 15 students with dyslexia to take the course in recent years, 14 have passed.

□ A photocopier engineer yesterday failed in his attempt to win a test ruling on dyslexia. Michael Tame, 50, of Sheffield, reached an out-of-court settlement with Xerox UK after failing to prove he was discriminated against and unfairly dismissed. It would have been the first time dyslexia had been recognised in law in this country under new disability legislation.



Hughes says he had no support for his dyslexia

# Car trek to circle world in 80 days

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

A BAND of intrepid motorists is planning to set off in April 2000 in an attempt to drive classic cars around the world in 80 days to celebrate the millennium.

The convoy of 40 competitors will set off from Tower Bridge in London and drive through Europe before crossing China east to west, following the Silk Route and skirting one of the world's most remote areas, the Taklimakan Desert.

From Beijing the cars will flow to Anchorage in Alaska, then driven through Western Canada and across the United States before cruising the Atlantic and

returning to Tower Bridge. The first travellers have already signed up, including Chris and Jan Dunkley, from Maidstone, Kent, who will be taking their 1935 Bentley Special, and Gerry Archer, head of accounts audit at the accountants KPMG in London, in a 1952 Aston Martin International which has barely enough room for him and a toothbrush.

Philip Young, organiser of the Around the World in 80 Days Motor Challenge, said yesterday: "Drivers will have to be self-sufficient, although there will be safety crews, fuel dumps and medics along the route."



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# Wild boar 'plague' afflicts rural France

By BEN MACINTYRE

WILD boars have become an aggressive and hairy plague in parts of rural France, where over-protection, over-feeding and the human exodus to the cities have led to a boom in the porcine population.

Asterix the Gaul, the cartoon character with an appetite for roast boar, would be delighted with the beast's abundance, but the swelling herds of *sangliers* are proving an expensive menace in many areas.

According to the latest estimates well over half a million wild boars roam the French countryside, uprooting golf courses, munching through cereal crops and vegetable patches, and occasionally attempting to gore residents or their dogs.

Last year the French Government paid out a record Fr155 million (£15 million) in compensation to farmers and others for the damage caused by wild game — an increase of a third on the previous year, and four times the figure for 1987. More than 80 per cent of the destruction was caused by wild



Asterix the Gaul, who has an appetite for roast boar

boars, which can grow to a weight of 270lb and will eat just about anything, from potatoes and drying laundry to mice.

The start of the wild boar boom can be dated to 1968, when a law was passed rescinding the ancient French right to kill on sight any wild animal caught in the act of destruction, and setting out rules for compensation

instead. Farmers stopped bothering to shoot the boars, leaving that to hunters, and simply sent in a damages bill to the local authorities. Thirty years later, the boar population is increasing at an alarming rate.

French wild boar hunters in the Obelix tradition are like pigs in clover, slaughtering record numbers of animals. No fewer than 298,383 boars were killed in France in 1996, compared to 30,000 in 1970.

The animals are particularly numerous in the depopulated regions of central and southern France, where declining agriculture and the spread of brush and untamed undergrowth provides them with ideal shelter.

There, where fields and villages have been abandoned, thick scrub has grown up making it impossible to control the wild boars by hunting. Jean-Pierre Arnaudic, technical co-ordinator for the National Federation of Hunters, said:

Hunters themselves are also partly responsible for the population explosion, due to the widespread technique of leaving out additional

food in certain areas with the dual aim of preventing the wild pigs from foraging into cultivated land and ensuring a permanent resident population during the hunting season, September to February.

Particularly keen and competitive hunters have been known to lay out excessive quantities of wild boar food in the hope of luring additional animals. The result, however, is that while the hunters are bagging more and more boars, the wild pigs are simultaneously growing fatter and more plentiful, breeding far faster than they can be turned into *pièce de sautier*.

In Britain, several hundred wild boars are believed to be roaming the countryside after escaping from farms in recent years. The main concentrations are in Kent and East Sussex, where several pairs escaped after the 1987 storms. Boars have also been spotted in the West Country, Humberdale and Scotland. In June a Dorset farmer was charged by a sow, forcing him to take refuge in his tractor.

# Algerian savagery grows

Europe and US urge Algiers to stop carnage as hundreds more are massacred

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of Algerian civilians were burnt alive in their homes and more than a hundred had their throats cut in two more savage massacres in western Algeria, the country's newspapers reported yesterday. The Government in Algiers came under mounting international pressure to stop the carnage.

The entire population of Had Chekala in Relizane province, estimated at several hundred people, perished when the village was burnt to the ground on Sunday night in an attack blamed on Muslim fundamentalist rebels, according to *La Tribune* newspaper. An estimated 117 people had their throats slit the night before in the nearby village of Remka. The latest attacks, which have not been officially confirmed, follow the reported massacre of more than 400 people last week in Relizane, marking the single worst atrocity during six years of internal conflict in Algeria.

A group of more than 30 well-organised guerrillas launched the night-time assault on Had Chekala, "putting the village to fire and blood and leaving no survivors", *La Tribune* reported. More than a thousand civilians are reported to have been killed in the first week of the the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Television images of horribly injured survivors from the latest massacres have



Villagers at Daira de Ramika, scene of a massacre last week, in a show of defiance

galvanised the media and public opinion in France, bringing pressure on the Government to intervene more forcibly in its former colony, despite a long tradition of standing back from the mounting violence.

Security forces were combing the forested mountains of western Algeria in pursuit of the killers yesterday, as France and the US joined Germany in calling for the country's military-backed Government to do more to protect its civilians. France, breaking its careful silence on

Algerian domestic affairs, has changed tack after the latest blood-letting, directly criticising the Government of President Zeroual for failing to "enable its citizens to live in peace and safety".

Those remarks drew an angry retort from Algiers, where the Foreign Ministry said: "The French authorities have no right to remind the Algerian Government of its duties... while Algeria is carrying out its own approach to resolving the crisis." Algerian officials have played down the scale of the carnage,

blaming the killings on unspecified "terrorists" and insisting that the massacres are simply the "last gasp" of a dying and unpopular rebel movement.

France later appeared to be toning down its tougher line, insisting that Paris has "no intention of interfering in the affairs of Algeria". After Germany pressed for a European Union diplomatic effort to end the slaughter, the United States called on Algeria to protect its people and for a team of international investigators to be sent to the country

to establish the facts in the brutally confused situation.

The United Nations said Mary Robinson, its Human Rights Commissioner, wanted the organisation's special envoys on torture and summary executions to visit the country as soon as possible. Both envoys are in contact with the Algerian authorities and could hold talks with the Algerian delegation at the next UN human rights commission session in Geneva in March.

Algerian officials have blamed many of the attacks on the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the fundamentalist groups fighting to topple the military-backed regime, but the security forces have also been accused of human rights abuses and complicity in the atrocities to discredit the rebels — charges hotly denied by the Government. The massacres may also, in part, represent tit-for-tat reprisals between GIA militants and their more moderate rivals, the Islamic Salvation Army.

The Algerian Government has rejected international efforts to help to end the conflict, although the State Department said President Zeroual had agreed to allow a UN delegation into the country to discuss the human rights issues.

Some 90 per cent of Algeria's oil is exported to Western Europe, with Italy the principal buyer followed by France and Germany. Algeria relies on oil and gas exports for most of its foreign currency, but there is little sign, in the intensely complex and rapidly deteriorating situation, that immediate economic pressure will be brought to bear on the Algerian Government. While diplomatic pressure is building on Algiers, therefore, the flow of oil, and blood, appears likely to continue unchecked.

Letters, page 17

# Six-year cycle of terror began with aborted election

Violence in Algeria appears to be building to a bloody climax before the sixth anniversary next Monday of the Algerian Army's intervention to halt elections that the Islamic fundamentalists seemed on course to win.

At least 75,000 people have died in the ensuing conflict, as Islamic guerrillas have bled with ferocity to overthrow the military-backed Government of President Zeroual.

Six years ago the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), planning to build a state founded on Islamic law, had won 189 seats in the first round of national elections and was set for a clear majority in the second round when the army intervened, ousting then President Bendjedid. It cancelled the election and arrested most of the FIS leadership. Since then, guerrillas fighting in the name of the FIS and its more radical offshoot, the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), have fought a barbarous terrorist war with the Algiers regime.

The Algerian Government, consistently claiming the rebel movement is petering out, has attempted to smash the guerrilla network while moving slowly towards a series of local and parliamentary elections, the results of which have been questioned by international monitors.

In 1995 a savage bombing campaign, blamed on the GIA, was launched in mainland France in retaliation for perceived French support of the Algerian Government.

The killings in Algeria have gradually established a series of horrific patterns: individual murders of foreigners, mis-

sionaries and politicians; armed bands descending on isolated villages or suburbs and indiscriminately massacring the inhabitants; bomb attacks on crowded markets; interception of buses and vehicles at fake roadblocks and the murder of passengers.

The Government rarely comments directly on the killings, describing them merely as the work of "terrorists". Adding to the confusion, individual and competing rebel groups seldom claim responsibility. Even the precise scale of the slaughter is unclear, since newspapers report the carnage and death tolls under government supervision.

The tactics of the rebels are stark to sow general panic and prove that the Government is unable to put down the insurgency. Algiers is also following a brutal plan: meeting violence with violence, or blaming the extremists for the atrocities while insisting that the rest of the world must mind its own business.

After six years the security forces and the rebels have become bogged down in a spiral of slaughter, for which the price is being paid principally in civilian blood.

# Cook says EU plans to send mission

By JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL REPORTER

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday said that the European Union was considering sending a delegation of senior officials to Algeria to discuss the situation with the military Government.

EU officials will meet tomorrow and again next week to complete details of the visit, likely to be headed by the "troika" of Britain, Luxembourg and Austria. They would report back to the next EU foreign ministers' meeting — in Brussels on January 26.

Speaking to the Foreign Affairs Committee at Westminster, Mr Cook said: "I want to record the shock and horror that we are feeling about the reports of the appalling atrocities in Algeria. Not only has the death toll been appallingly high, but the manner of the deaths have been particularly distressing. The victims of such atrocities are not just those who are killed but all the other villagers who are in an understandable state of terror."

He told MPs it was important that the EU could speak with "one voice" to the Algerian Government.

Earlier, Donald Anderson, the committee's chairman, urged Mr Cook to step up international pressure. He told BBC Radio that there were "very strong suggestions" that some elements of the regime were involved.

"We've got to the point where the hand-wringing and the quiet diplomacy, which clearly hasn't worked, must stop," he said.

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حكايا من الوطن





Sonny Bono, a Republican congressman since 1994, in Washington last May, left, and with Cher, then his wife, during their successful singing and stage double act which included a hit television variety show in the 1970s

# Sonny Bono killed in skiing accident

**SONNY BONO**, the pop singer who reinvented himself in later life as a Republican congressman, has died in California in the second fatal skiing accident to claim an American public figure in less than a week. He was 62.

Mr Bono was skiing ahead of his young family at a resort near Lake Tahoe late on Monday afternoon when he hit a tree and suffered head and neck injuries, ski patrol officials said. He was found dead some two hours later.

The accident, eerily similar to one that killed Michael Kennedy at Aspen, Colorado, on New Year's Eve, ended a highly unusual career that



**America mourns an entertainer turned politician,**  
**Giles Whittell reports from Los Angeles**

first peaked with the Sonny and Cher double act in music and on television. In Washington, Mr Bono was proving as unlikely but effective a politician as he had been a pop star.

An athen-looking Cher cancelled engagements in London yesterday to fly home to Los Angeles for her former husband's funeral. She was a spokeswoman said, deeply

distressed by news of the tragedy, having remained friends with Mr Bono since their divorce in 1974.

Flags on Capitol Hill flew at half mast in honour of the congressman from the Palm Springs area who was remembered warmly by fellow Republicans. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, called his death "a terrible shock" and said the party would be mourning "a very, very dear friend". Mr Bono, who first ran for office because of red tape obstructing a refit for an Italian restaurant he owned in Palm Springs, "brought a great deal of common sense to politics", said congressman

Robert Erlich who, like the singer, entered Congress in 1994. "He was a little street kid and he brought street smarts to the halls of government. He was not impressed with Washington." Mr Bono first entered politics when he was elected mayor of Palm Springs in 1988.

The exact cause of his death was being investigated yesterday at the Heavenly Ski Resort, 50 miles south of Reno, but a spokesman said he was last seen leaving an intermediate run to detour through "a gladed area of trees" ahead of his family. According to some reports, people on a chairlift may have seen him in his final

moments.

An avid and competent skier, the congressman was on holiday with his third wife, Mary Whisker, and their two children, Chesare, 9, and Chianina, 6. Mr Bono's body was found after dark, two hours after his wife reported him missing.

Though a proven survivor in politics, he will be best remembered as the slight, moustachioed singer-songwriter behind such hits as *I Got You, Babe* - which reached number one in the Billboard charts in August 1965 - *Laugh At Me* and *The Beat Goes On*.

A high school dropout and

the son of poor Sicilian immigrants, he wrote his first songs for Phil Spector and the Righteous Brothers while delivering groceries to pay his bills. His first hit as a writer was *Needles and Pins*, which he co-wrote with Jack Nitzsche. It became a top 20 single for the British group the Searchers in 1964.

His ticket to stardom, however, was an exotic and ambitious singer then known as Cherilyn Sarkisian whom he married in 1964 and with whom he wrote ten top-40 singles. Excerpts from the Sonny and Cher variety show, broadcast on CBS from 1971-74, were replayed yesterday on

US television and friends and political allies paid tribute to his efforts for environmental causes, particularly southern California's polluted Salton Sea.

Mr Bono was quoted as saying in a recent interview that politics and showbusiness were essentially the same: "People want lyrics and a beat they can remember."

In addition to his wife and younger children he is survived by a daughter from the first of his three marriages and by his daughter with Cher, Chastity Bono, a prominent lesbian activist.

## Licence wars drag Barbie to court

**FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON**

AFTER nearly four decades as a children's icon, coveting cashmere coats and pink pantsuits, Barbie is at the centre of one of the corporate world's most aggressive trade mark battles. Mattel Inc, Barbie's maker, has become so serious about pursuing possible copyright poachers that the plastic princess may as well wear a wig and appear in court.

The culprits are universal. In Britain, for example, Mattel is in the final stages

of negotiations with the Body Shop to resolve the question of the British company's advertising campaign featuring a fat Barbie lookalike reclining on a sofa.

Last spring, the Californian toy giant filed a suit against a doll collectors' magazine that pictured their product with champagne and cigarettes. Mattel also sued MCA Records for a hit record that calls the doll "a blonde bimbo girl" and Nissan for its car commercial that included figures like Barbie and Ken. The company has demanded an end to unauthorised events under the Barbie

banner, even those such as the Great Lakes Chapter of the Barbie Collectors' Club in Michigan whose "Barbie Grants a Wish" weekends have raised \$120,000 (£735,000) for sick children. Web sites have been targeted and all collectors' clubs have been told they may no longer use the Barbie name without an official licence.

Mattel says it is not unusual for companies to protect their properties so vigorously. "We also have an obligation to keep Barbie pure and we pursue uses considered to be libellous."

## New peace mission at White House

**BY BRONWEN MADDOX**

**SPITTING** and snarling, back arched and tail fluffed, Socks the First Cat yesterday rebuffed his owner's attempt to introduce him to the White House's newest resident, Buddy the First Dog.

Laughing and bent double to clutch his chocolate Labrador by the collar, President Clinton led the new puppy within three feet of the black and white cat previously unrivalled in the First Family's affections. But the staged encounter on the White House lawn produced a din of yowls and wails from Socks, drowning out even Buddy's yapping.

The President has compared "making the peace between those two" to achieving peace in Northern Ireland, the Middle East or Bosnia.

The dog's arrival shortly before Christmas has been taken by White House watchers as a symbol of the new relaxed air in the White House. In that relaxed spirit, many now expect the row over holiday photographs - of the President and Hillary Clinton in bathing suits - to simmer down. The White House insists that photographs of the couple embracing were taken without the knowledge of the Clintons.

Asked if he felt his privacy was invaded, the President replied "yes", but added that it was up to the press to draw the line. While the photographs were not flattering to his waistline or to Hillary's thighs, they showed the couple's affection towards each other, a hugely valuable piece of publicity, even if unintended.

## Gingrich musters Republicans to fight Clinton health plan

**FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON**

**PRESIDENT CLINTON** yesterday launched a proposal to allow Americans to buy into the national system of health care on becoming 55 years old, in yet another sign that one of this year's fiercest battlegrounds will be the fight for the "grey vote".

Under the plan, Americans would be able to pay a fixed premium of about \$5,000 (£3,050) a year and enter the Medicare system ten years earlier than now. The President argued that company downsizing, and a trend towards moving jobs more often, had thrown many outside the traditional safety net, leaving them out of the economic boom.

Under his plan, people aged between 62 and 64 would be able to enter the Medicare system for \$300 a month.

The move was greeted enthusiastically by pensioners' groups. The potentially ruinous costs of healthcare in the United States are a source of fear for most Americans, and securing access to health benefits is as important to many job applicants as an acceptable salary.

Mr Clinton said yesterday that his proposals, which would bring hundreds of thousands under the government healthcare umbrella, were "fiscally responsible". The plan would place "no new burdens on Medicare" because of the upfront contributions required from these joining Democrats.

Senator Edward Kennedy, calling on Congress to back the plan,

said: "The ingenuity of the proposal... is that it will be paid for, and paid for in full."

But Republicans yesterday attacked the plan and Mr Clinton's account of its financing, saying that they did not want to expand big government, and in particular did not want to expand Medicare when its ability to pay for the over-65-year-olds was already in doubt. Richard Armye, the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, said: "I am a little surprised the President came out with this."

Mr Clinton's move seems guaranteed to put him on a collision course with the Republican-controlled Congress ahead of the crucial November congressional elections. Republicans are bruised and divided after last year, when they saw some of their favourite policies, such as balancing the federal budget, appropriated by Mr Clinton to huge popular acclaim.

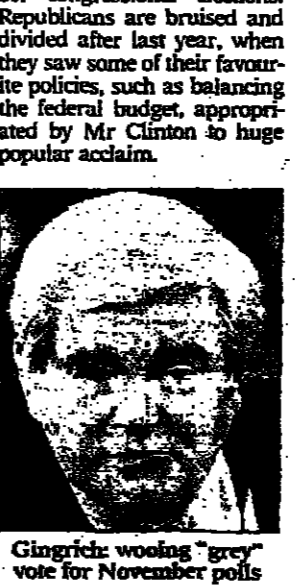
This week Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, made his own pitch to ageing Americans, calling for an "adult discussion" about overhauling the country's tottering pension system.

In a simultaneous attempt to unite his deeply divided party and revive his own precarious political fortunes, Mr Gingrich said that shoring up social security could be achieved at the same time as cutting taxes, a cherished but elusive goal of many Republicans. He also called for a hard line on drugs and tough action against failing schools.

Mr Gingrich, architect of the party's 1994 *Contract with America*, saw his power wane as the public recoiled from the radical tone of the manifesto. It was undermined further by ethical investigations into his personal finances. As leader of Republicans in the House of Representatives, he is battling against the slim but real chance that Democrats could regain control of the House in November.

In a radical new proposal, Mr Gingrich is suggesting a cap on total taxation, arguing that no American at any income level should have to pay more than 25 per cent of income in local, state and federal taxes during peacetime. The average taxation rate is now about 38 per cent.

His plan would aim to cut government by about a third, he said. "Is the shape of America's future 'We the Government'?"



Gingrich: working "grey" vote for November polls

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## Britain faces plea by Montserrat for millions of pounds to rebuild island

**BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR**

**THE volcano-stricken island** of Montserrat will this week present Britain with a long-term plan that will cost the taxpayer tens of millions of pounds.

The five-year scheme to redevelop the inhabitable northern third of the tiny Caribbean island is based on scientific forecasts that the Soufriere Hills volcano will not produce a cataclysmic eruption and will die down within the next three years.

The British Government, which has already spent £40 million in aid to the island, must decide whether it will commit itself to a hugely expensive rebuilding of the infrastructure for the remaining 3,500 inhabitants. Much of

the promised emergency aid has been put on hold until the scientists can give assurances that the volcano will not destroy the entire island.

The Montserrat budget for next year is estimated at £10 million, not counting millions more that will be needed in emergency aid and long-term redevelopment. The island, from which two thirds of the population has already fled, is now the second largest recipient of British overseas aid.

Rubin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, will visit Montserrat next month after attending the inauguration of a standing conference of the small island in the Caribbean. Clare Short, the Secretary for International Development who angered

Montserratians by claiming that they would want "golden elephants", has yet to visit the island.

Insurance is one of the biggest problems facing the island. The three remaining companies which are willing to cover the islanders have been reluctant to pay out claims without an assessment of the damage.

This was impossible to obtain while entry to the danger zone around the volcano was prohibited. Tony Abbott, the new Governor, held a meeting with all the companies in November, and called for an accelerated procedure to settle claims and authorised escorted visits to Plymouth and other damaged and abandoned residential areas to assess the situation.

British officials say that the main priorities are re-establishing schooling, improving the crowded and flimsy communal shelters in the north and continuing the intensive health education programme to make all islanders aware of the dangers of volcanic ash.

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# Why I thought I would never manage to be a mother

Melissa Benn, Tony Benn's only daughter, has written a book about motherhood. Interview by Noreen Taylor

Had she been a rebellious daughter. Melissa would have worn a black velvet hairband, graced her neckline with pearls, spent days shopping in the West End and said "yah" rather a lot.

Instead, Melissa conformed. Her short hair says "I have other priorities". The scant attention to make-up suggests her looks are not important. The black polo-neck, black trousers and black boots signal sartorial minimalism. The whole picture conveys political correctness.

"My parents took the view, why rebel at home when there are all those interesting issues out there to rebel against?" she explains. Yes, Tony and Caroline Benn can surely be proud of their only daughter.

Melissa's accent is anonymous London. She travels by bus and, like her father, she drinks tea. At 40 she is a committed feminist, essayist and the mother of two girls, sharing parenthood with her partner, who is an analytical psychotherapist and writer.

Now she has produced a

book about motherhood. "I wanted to know about the experiences of ordinary mothers: single mothers, mothers who stay at home, mothers who juggle work and children without the benefit of nannies or a strong support system."

"There are plenty of articles on motherhood, but most are written by journalists and they tend to concentrate on phenomena like Nicola Horlick. The lives of ordinary women are not being explored at all."

She is attractive in her functional black, and articulate, but the openness with which she discusses her book changes to a watchful caution when asked about her father. While she was growing up, he was being demonised in the tabloid press for his radicalism, earning him the moniker "Loony Benn". Did this make a strong impression on her during her schooldays?

"Not in any way you might imagine. I can't ever remember a period where I worried or felt defensive about him. I never longed to be part of a more sheltered, conformist family. My childhood was fun. Argumentative, stimulating



"I wanted to know about the experiences of ordinary mothers: single mothers, mothers who stay at home, mothers who juggle work and children without the benefit of nannies"

always, but never rancorous. The sort of childhood I would want for my children.

"I went to Holland Park Comprehensive, which is why I don't sound posh and why I'm able to mix with everyone, to understand differences, poverty. I remember a girl at school who lived in a caravan and children who didn't have proper shoes.

"To have been educated in a system that shut me off, made me class-conscious, able only to mix with a small elite, would have been so limiting. Awful! A state education seems to me to be infinitely preferable to the polish of a private one. Which is exactly why I eschewed the Oxbridge option and chose the LSE.

"Both my parents managed to be around a great deal for

my three brothers and me, although they were always busy with their own lives. I think I grew up wanting their lives, or a bit of each life, anyway."

Her book has been written with integrity and an ache for truth, but it will not surprise women. It takes us along a well-trodden track, ruminating on predictable disappointments. Despite the social revolution that has taken place since the Sixties, women are still embedded in the domestic structure, as supervisors, monitors and household managers. They are the primary carers, while husbands tend to consider themselves virtuous if they cook a meal, do a weekend walk around the supermarket or spend the day with a child. Even in the post-

feminist Nineties, men "help" while women "do".

But Melissa does manage to throw new light on society's latest *bête noire*: single mothers on benefit. She argues that their stories are often complex and do not always fit tidily into the box marked "welfare scrounger". Nor are they responsible, as certain cultural commentators, journalists and politicians would like us to believe, for the downfall of civilisation as we know it.

Sadly, says Melissa, they are often women who, abandoned by husbands or their children's fathers, find themselves struggling alone against massive odds to raise their children in the best possible way.

Throughout the book, Melissa gives the impression of being a writer with a warm heart, a cool, clear head and a talent to communicate, without "babyfying" complex issues. She devoted more than three years to her study after

becoming pregnant with Hannah, now three.

"I was in my late thirties and I found myself thinking of motherhood. I am one of those women who never imagined she would be a mother. I never thought I would be able to do it if I wanted to write, to pursue my independence and freedom. Now I am amazed and delighted to know that I can."

"Being with the right man, someone who shares your values, understands your plans, helps, of course. It wasn't until my partner and I said 'let's go for it' that I began to be curious, to want to know more about the domestic world: the world of women and children. I didn't want the book to be a polemic. I just wanted to ask people to reflect on how they organised their lives."

"From my own perspective I

know that it is hard, a life without sleep, with a 24-hour feel to it. I realise now that all mothers of young children become obsessed by sleep and talk about it the way the starving talk about food."

"The continuing drudgery of looking after young children, cleaning them, washing their clothes, preparing those endless meals: I can no longer remember what it was like to live without that circular round of duties. Yet I am one of the fortunate ones. I have a partner who made the decision to work less and to work from home so that we could share the responsibility."

"Both of us have ambitions and we both wanted children, so we arranged our lives accordingly. We have a nanny for six half-days a week while we work in our separate offices at one end of the house, and

for the rest of the time we share responsibility.

"It sounds banal, but parenthood changes us, and the pleasure and enjoyment it has brought has surprised me. Domestic life is another revelation. Its values and purpose were once recognised and ennobled. Now it has become a secret world, one which, if you are a successful professional, it is no longer cool to bring up when you are out there among the guys. Even to admit to having one is breaking a taboo."

"The home, the place of women and children, has been downgraded to the point where it is viewed as worthless. Women want to get out there and be like men, so where does that leave children? As to the answer, I only know that it lies in some cultural shift whereby men work less and home becomes as valued as work."

© Madonna and Child: Towards a New Politics of Motherhood, by Melissa Benn (Jonathan Cape, £12.99)

I grew up wanting a bit of each of my parents' lives'

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## Lifestyles of the rich and thrifty

### Decamillionaires prefer Bud to Bolly, says Tunku Varadarajan

Think of millionaires and you think of America. You think of Texas JRs in ten-gallon hats, of *The Great Gatsby* and white linen suits, of Donald Trump and serial misanthropes, of prenuptial agreements and bank-breaking divorce, of stretch limousines and airbuds in furs, of penthouses and rings the size of bagels, of eccentric wills and acrimonious litigation, of glitz, glamour, glitter, vulgarity and big fat cigars.

Many more people subscribe to these images than do not. But are they an accurate depiction of American millionaires — of whom there are known to be 3.5 million — and their lifestyles? Thomas Stanley and William Danko, both professors of marketing at American universities, have set out to test the truth of these conceptions and have revealed their results in a recently published book, *The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy*.

Consider these statements about this prosperous tribe, all culled from the book, and decide which are true, which false: a quarter of America's millionaires spend less than \$99 (£67) on a pair of shoes; half have never spent more than \$25 on a watch; only one in ten spends more than \$999 on a suit; only one in 15 has an American Express Platinum card; and more than two thirds drive cars at least three years old.

Few of you will have scored

the authors ask, that profile America's affluent? "Frugal, frugal, frugal." They do not fritter wealth away. Only 23 per cent, for example, drive the latest model of car. A fifth drive cars that are five years old or more. Not even the "decamillionaires" — men, or households, with a worth of \$10 million or more — have habitually extravagant tastes.

For their research, Professor Stanley and Professor Danko rented a penthouse on New York's Upper East Side, to which they invited decamillionaires for interviews. They also hired two

"gourmet food designers" to put together a cocktail menu of four pâtés and three kinds of caviare, accompanied by a rather fine *grand cru* charet.

The first decamillionaire turned down the charet, saying: "I drink Scotch and two kinds of beer — free and Budweiser!" The other invitees shared his demotic instincts. Not one touched the pâtés, still less the caviare. One or two did, however, nibble on the crackers. The pâtés and caviare were later wolfed down by the authors.

Needless to say, neither of them is a millionaire.

© The Millionaire Next Door: The Surprising Secrets of America's Wealthy, by Thomas Stanley and William Danko, Longstreet Press, Atlanta, Georgia, \$22

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# The William Hague Syndrome

(or why going on holiday can be dangerous)

The Tory leader is the latest public figure to find that going away can be bad for one's career, says Grace Bradberry

Pity poor William Hague. As he and Fiona reclined in the plush surroundings of an Indian hotel, Tory grandees were busy sharpening a knife for his pampered back. Perhaps, even as they wished him well at his pre-wedding drinks party, one or two were rehearsing lines for that deadly letter to *The Independent*.

On this point at least Mr Hague can claim to be in touch with the nation. Thousands of others will have returned from their Christmas break to discover that their worst nightmare has come true: they have been sacked, demoted or marginalised by their colleagues. For them, the new year is to be a battle for survival, or, in the worst-case scenario, a period of leisured reflection.

For the moment, Mr Hague sounds robust. "I'm not going to be blackmailed by anybody. I'm not going to be held to ransom by anybody," he said yesterday.

The threat to the Tory leader has come from what in other workplaces would be an unexpected quarter, the older generation — a point that he was yesterday at pains to reinforce. "I realise some people find it hard to accept that they have had their day, but they certainly have had their day. Be under no illusions about that."

Unusual though Mr Hague's situation may be in this one respect, it is in other ways a perfect illustration of a nasty trend. The William Hague Syndrome — being stitched up while on holiday — is increasingly common.

Although Mr Blair has survived his holiday in the Seychelles virtually unscathed, thanks largely to the Jack Straw cannabis debacle, his authority over his party wobbled last summer when the natural antipathy between Peter Mandelson and John Prescott became embarrassingly public. A Tuscan villa is not a safe place to be when you are Prime Minister.

It is worth remembering that it used to be a standard joke that no Commonwealth conference could pass without some leader or other finding they no longer needed a return ticket. It can be only a matter of time now before former presidents are called in to give seminars to our politicians — and indeed to professionals generally — on how to watch your back while you are on holiday.

It never used to be like that in Britain. When Bertrand

Russell wrote *Conquest of Happiness* in 1930, his words read like common sense. "One of the symptoms of approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important," he wrote, "and that to take a holiday would bring all kinds of disaster." Oh but it will, Bertrand, it will.

The most shocking illustration of the state we now find ourselves in is the slogan for a well-known flu remedy — "What kind of person goes to work with the flu? The one who's after your job." How sad that the British workforce, once renowned for its strike record, should have become so cut-throat as to work even when entitled not to.

We are, however, only following the example of America's corporate culture. There, it is almost unheard of for a professional to take a fortnight's holiday. Christmas is a brief affair. Real men spend the festive season making corporate raids on companies whose bosses have been foolish enough to spend time with their families. Even the most workshy dare not spend too long on the beach lest the night of the long knives should find them in their swimwear.

The rot is spreading here. Nicola Horlick, coincidentally a friend of William Hague, will be able to give him some advice on dealing with the Yuletide attempted coup d'état. Her account of being ousted from a top job at Morgan Grenfell begins with her finishing work on December 20, 1996, and musing: "Christmas is my favourite time of year." January 14, 1997, finds her standing outside the front door of Morgan Grenfell, her desk cleared, her security pass removed.

"I put my reports on someone's desk and handed in my security card. I did not cry or scream. I went round to see my solicitor," she writes in her book, *Can You Have It All?* It is a chilling account and should not be read by anyone contemplating so much as a mini-break. A particularly bleak moment comes when Horlick realises she has been denounced by her former colleagues, and that they will be sharing her bonus between them. Though she never admits it in the book, one suspects that Ms Horlick will never again enjoy Christmas to quite the same extent.

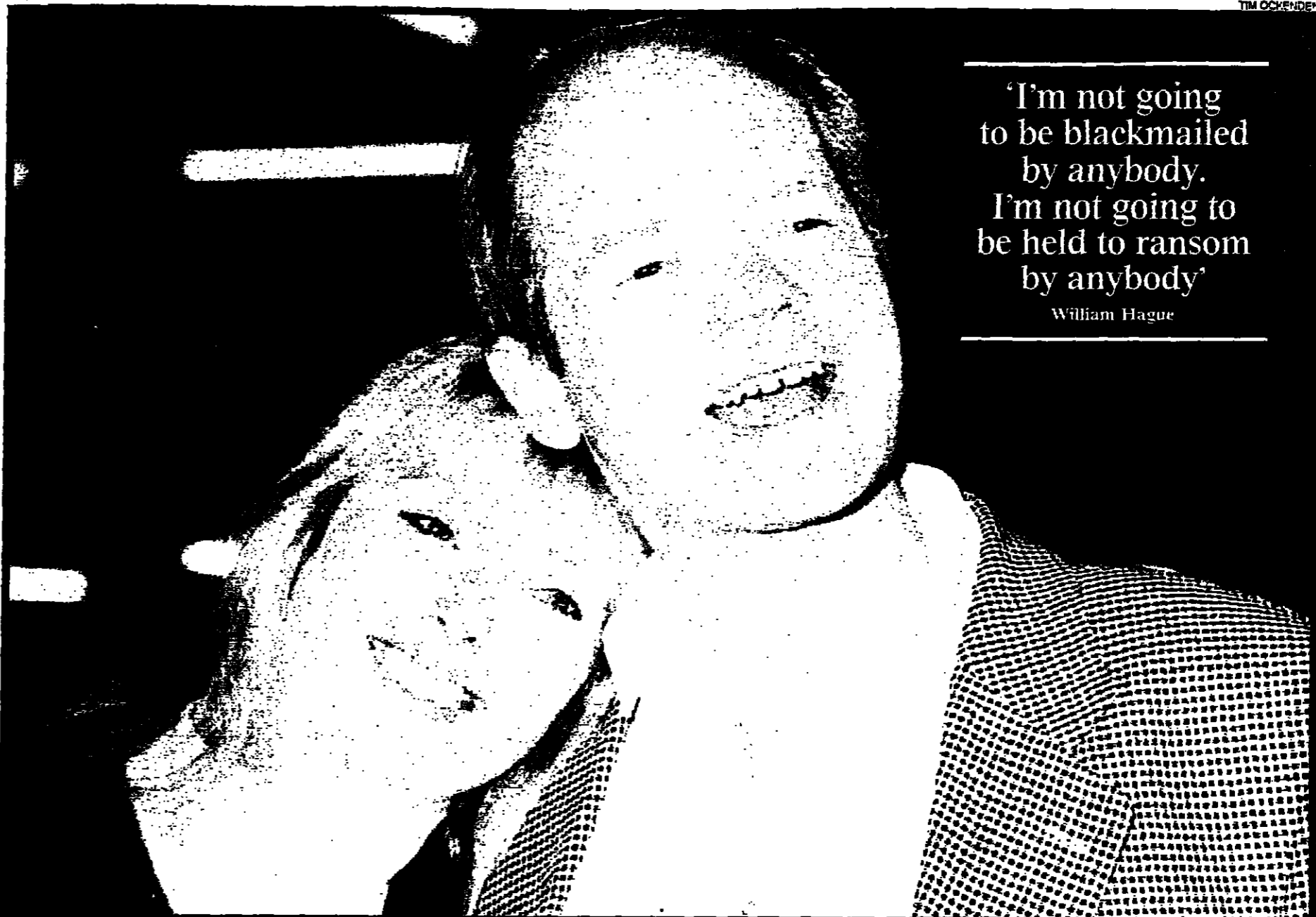
It is not only at new year that these things happen. Any holiday will do. Sue Douglas, former Editor of the *Sunday Express*, was in a house on a remote Scottish island when Stephen Grabiner, chief executive of United Newspapers, tracked her down.

A friend of Douglas recalls: "She'd gone off after eight months of working phenomenally hard to find some peace on this remote island. There was a knock on the door and it was her neighbour with a call from an executive at United Newspapers."

She was asked to come back to London for a very urgent meeting about "future plans". She was offered the use of a helicopter but declined, and arrived back two days later to be told that the *Sunday Express* and *Daily Express* were to be united as a seven-day paper and she would not be editing it.

So why is it that so many sackings take place while a person is away? "Cowardice. Straightforward cowardice," says the psychologist and author Dorothy Rowe. "Such a lot of people are frightened of other people's anger. All these big strong men, who would like us women to believe they're never frightened of anyone, are in fact completely terrified of someone getting angry with them. The kind of people who desperately want to be liked, who can't bear the thought of being disliked, will be especially scared when they have to behave in a fashion the other person is bound to find unacceptable."

But why do these things so often seem to happen at Christmas? "Human nature doesn't change," says Rowe. "Throughout history various war leaders have won a victory because they waited until the other side was feasting." That will be little comfort for William Hague as he prepares for his new year showdown in the Commons with the rebel Tory grandees.



'I'm not going to be blackmailed by anybody. I'm not going to be held to ransom by anybody'

William Hague



'She was offered the use of a helicopter. She declined and arrived back two days later to be told she was no longer Editor'

A friend of Sue Douglas



'I put my reports on someone's desk and handed in my security card. I did not cry or scream. I went round to see my solicitor'

Nicola Horlick

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The fine London house, and right, the campaigner Gianna Angelopoulos, with Dimitris Avramopoulos, Mayor of Athens

# Solved: the great rich house mystery

Rachel Kelly names the new owner of one of the finest properties in London

The woman behind the successful Olympics bid by Athens, Gianna Angelopoulos, has emerged as the mystery buyer of one of the most expensive houses in London. The owners of the Old Rectory in Chelsea, worth £25 million, have remained secret since contracts were exchanged on the property in 1995.

Since then, the gliding, decorating, papering and plastering have not stopped. The Angelopouloses have spent about £10 million on redecorating the 50-room property in Old Church Street. The 18th-century Grade II listed mansion is now probably London's single most lavish family home, complete with its own lido.

Mrs Angelopoulos, 42, lives there with her three children, who are being educated in London. Her husband, Theodore, a Greek shipping and steel magnate. She became a familiar and glamorous figure on our television screens after she directed last year's winning bid for the 2004 Games.

Archer's flat on Millbank and the Bath and Racquets Club for Mark Birley and are known for the pared-down restraint of their work — the Conran rather than the Laura Ashley school of decorating. Yet much of their work is now subsumed by the new decorating scheme. The house was transformed anew by a team including the yacht designer John Bannenberg, with help from Andrew Norrey, an ex-Tiffany's designer. Neither would comment on their work.



conditioning and piped music to every room, is cleverly concealed, so a brass door, for example, hides a standard fire alarm. The sprinklers are discreetly set in the gravel path in a woodland glade. Perhaps the house's most extraordinary feature is its 2.5-acre garden, thought to be the biggest single patch of green in London after the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

Japanese-funded developers extended the original building when they bought the house in 1990 for £8 million. It has previously been owned by the Church Commissioners. Two wings enclose the garden at the back of the house, embracing terraces and a semi-circular lawn now decorated by a bronze statue. There is a granite-lined swimming pool with a dolphin fresco copied from Delphi. In the south wing are a gymnasium, billiards room and sun lounges.

# Calm after the boom

Interest rate rises have had a soothing effect on the market

THE housing market has lost its impetus, according to a series of recent surveys. Yesterday's Halifax report is only the latest to add to the impression of a market calming down: it found that the average price of a house had dropped by 0.2 per cent since November, the first fall since last January. The trend is also suggested by the latest Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) survey. It found that only 19 per cent of chartered surveyors and estate agents are predicting home price rises in the South East, and only 14 per cent in the South West. This compares with figures of 44 per cent and 36 per cent earlier in 1997.

er market. Roger Humber, chief executive of the House-Builder's Federation, says: "The housing market is stabilising. Personal income growth is expected to hold up at about 2.5 per cent this year, and we expect that demand will remain healthy throughout 1998." The five interest rate increases since May have had their effect. We hope that the Bank of England will now recognise that there is no necessity for further interest rate rises in the spring.

Most estate agents surveyed by the NAEA said that they thought business levels were higher than they were at the end of 1996. The forecast for 1998 is still good. The Halifax expects "house prices to continue rising in 1998 and 1999, but by only 5 per cent and 4 per cent respectively as the UK economy slows". Trevor Abrahamson of the Hampstead agency Gientree Estates speaks of a "plateau effect". He says: "Rises over the next year will be modest." His advice for buyers — especially first-timers — is to "take the plunge". He adds: "Many vendors, after five or six months without a sale for their property, will be reducing prices."

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THE TIMES

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INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS Janet Bush on the Bank's cutting edge PAGE 27



CREME A changing job market: should you stay, should you go? PAGE 35



SPORT Ramprakash stands at crossroads PAGES 39-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7 1998

Burton reports modest festive increase

THE FIRST evidence that Christmas trading has been disappointing but not disastrous for British retailers came yesterday with a cautiously optimistic sales update from Burton Group.

The retail giant, which is demerging its Debenhams department stores, said that it had seen a modest 7.6 per cent rise in sales during the Christmas and New Year period, but refused to say whether it had missed its targets.

The chain, which includes Principles, Dorothy Perkins and Top Shop, admitted that festive sales had started more slowly than expected, but had eventually improved.

The City gave a cautious welcome to the figures, and shares in the group advanced 3p to 43p.

Nigel Hall, Burton's finance director, said that he was pleased with the sales figures and pointed out that margins across the group had been maintained, unlike other retailers that had been forced by poor trading to discount stock before Christmas.

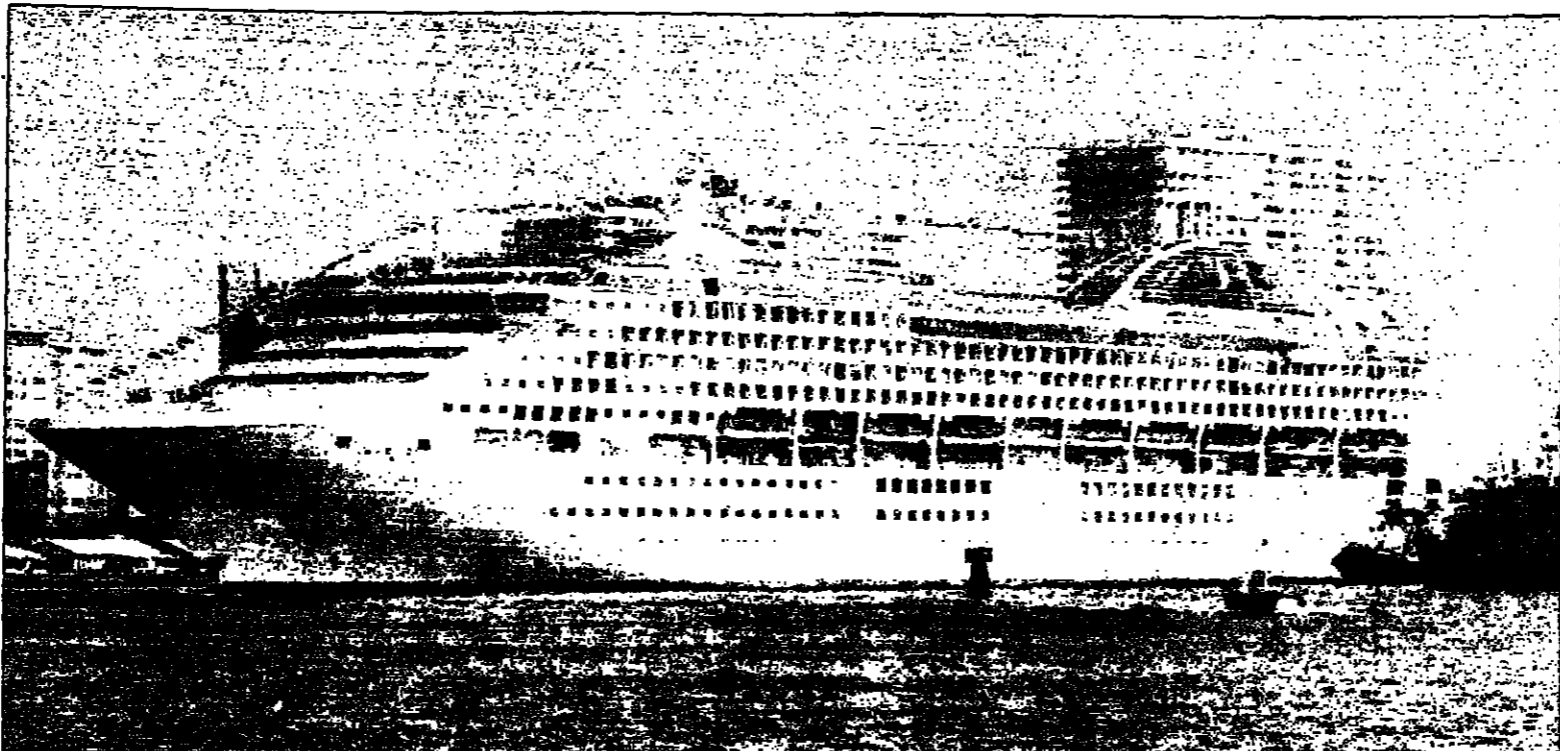
During the 18 weeks that ended on January 3, Burton's menswear stores saw sales increase by 7.6 per cent over the previous year, with women's wear sales up 9.2 per cent.

Debenhams sales were up by only 6.9 per cent. Clinton Cards was more upbeat yesterday, with like-for-like sales for the five weeks to December 28 were up nearly 12 per cent compared to the previous year.

The trading statement helped to boost the greetings card retailer's shares by 6 1/2p to 105p.

Don Lewin, Clinton's chairman, said: "Christmas trading was good all the way through, there was no last-minute rush. January is also usually good, and the market doesn't go dead immediately. We seem to be keeping quite busy, and soon we'll be into the Valentine's period."

Changing habits, page 27



THE Sun Princess, above, one of the world's biggest cruise ships, will be dwarfed by newcomers to the Princess family, part of P&O, which has placed orders for two new liners capable of carrying 2,600 passengers each. Costing about \$425 million (£261 million) apiece, the ships will be sisters to the 109,000-ton Grand Princess, which makes her maiden voyage from Southampton in May. Sun Princess weighs in at 17,000 tonnes. Destined for the Caribbean, the ships will be built at the Fincantieri shipyard in Trieste, Italy. Commentary, page 25.

Deflation fears plunge gold to 18-year low

GOLD slumped to an 18 1/2-year low yesterday as fears about deflation, coupled with a South Korean plan to sell gold to raise badly needed US dollars, continued to haunt the market.

Oil prices also tumbled to a two-and-a-half year low because of faltering Asian demand, the mild US winter and the imminent resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

Gold fixed at \$281.80 (£172.46) an ounce in afternoon trading — the lowest since July 1979 — before recovering slightly to close at \$282.20. Analysts said the latest fall came as investment funds short-sold gold again while Australian mining companies have moved to hedge future production.

Market sentiment was also damaged by the national campaign in Korea to persuade citizens to sell personal jewellery for dollars. Patriotic Koreans thronged banks across the country to hand in the jewellery, which was weighed and valued, before being melted down and sold on export markets for dollars. Participants will be repaid in

the South Korean won after the gold is exported.

The campaign began on Monday and a further 6.8 tonnes was handed in yesterday, bringing the total raised to ten tonnes, valued at about \$100 million on world markets. However, the banks said they would no longer give daily details of the gold collected because of fears it could further unsettle the gold market.

The price of gold has come under renewed pressure, after comments by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, that with inflation under control, deflation — a fall in wages and prices — could prove to be a problem for the US economy in the coming year.

Gold has traditionally been regarded as an insurance against inflation and reached record prices during the inflationary 1970s. It enjoyed a brief revival after

the 1987 crash and the Gulf War but declined in value steadily for the past two years. Analysts have been worried by signs that central banks, which hold reserves sufficient to meet worldwide demand for the next ten years, are considering disposing of their holdings.

The Australian Central Bank last year admitted selling two thirds of its stocks — the first time a leading gold producer had disposed of its reserves. The Swiss Central Bank — one of the largest institutional gold holders — has also hinted that it may sell 1,400 tonnes.

The market is likely to remain nervous before publication of the Gold Fields Mineral Services report tomorrow, which will provide estimates of supply and demand last year and could reveal if any central banks have made further disposals.

In the London oil market, IPE Brent closed at \$16.04 a barrel having earlier touched \$15.55 — its lowest level since July 1995. The latest fall came as the UN confirmed that it had approved a plan under which Iraq can resume oil exports in return for food. Baghdad is permitted to make exports totalling \$2 billion every six months.

The oil market has also been hit by falling demand prompted by the Asian economic turmoil and a mild winter in Western markets, and analysts said there was no sign of prices bottoming out yet.

Tempus, page 26

Korea seeks further \$10bn

THE South Korean Government said yesterday that it had reopened talks with the International Monetary Fund in an attempt to revise its economic targets ahead of receiving a further \$10 billion contribution towards the \$60 billion bail-out fund by the end of this week (Alasdair Murray writes).

Separately, the Government also began negotiations with US bankers in an attempt to reschedule debt payments and help to avert a possible default crisis. Lim Chang-yeul, Finance Minister, said the Government was considering guaranteeing private sector debt to foreign banks and offering attractive interest rates in order to convert short-term debt into medium and long-term loans. The developments helped to reassure investors and the stock market enjoyed a second successive rise.

Tempus, page 26

Tempus, page 26

Microsoft in 'bias' row

A FRESH legal dispute has blown up between Microsoft and the US Justice Department over an independent computer expert who will play a crucial role in the antitrust court case on the software house's Internet products.

Lawrence Lessig, a law professor at Harvard University, was appointed as a "special master" to the court last week to gather evidence from both sides and make recommendations on the legal merits of the Justice Department case.

However, Microsoft has objected to the appointment of Mr Lessig, who uses a computer from a rival company, Apple, because he has an "actual bias against Microsoft". He allegedly referred to installing a Microsoft product on his computer as having "sold my soul".

Three e-mail messages by Mr Lessig to officers at Netscape, another Microsoft rival, are being cited as evidence of his bias. Microsoft complained that Mr Lessig complained to Netscape that the installation of Microsoft's Internet Explorer programme had damaged the Netscape

Navigator programme on his computer. In one e-mail, Mr Lessig said: "OK, now this is really making me angry, and Charlie Nesson [another Harvard law professor] thinks we should file a lawsuit."

The Justice Department is pursuing Microsoft in the federal courts to force it to sell its operating system, a near-monopoly product, separately from its Internet Explorer. Netscape alleges that Microsoft is trying to use its operating system market position to establish its own monopoly in the Internet browser market.

Commentary, page 25

Tempus, page 26

RJB and Eastern in joint coal initiative

EASTERN GROUP and RJB Mining are to launch a "support the miners' campaign in a move that the two companies say could safeguard jobs and boost coal exports.

For every home and small business that signs up for electricity from Eastern, the generator and distributor will buy one-and-a-half more tonnes of coal a year from RJB. The deal, to be marketed under RJB's Lionheart brand for domestic fuel, is part of the wider race to capture household electricity customers as the market begins to open for competition in the next few months.

Eastern and RJB believe they can sign up a large number of customers from mining workers, former workers, pensioners and other supporters of the coal industry. About 50,000 people now have jobs in mining or dependent on the mining industry. In 1980 there were more than 230,000 people working directly in mining.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB, said: "We have in recent months been very much heartened and encouraged by the support we have received for our campaign for a fair deal and level playing field for the British coal industry."

John Devaney, executive chairman of Eastern, said: "Our offer allows customers to support directly the British coal mining industry while switching to Eastern to make savings on their home power bills."

Tempus, page 26

Tempus, page 26

Vincent in Codelco denial

CHARLIE VINCENT, founder of the controversial Winchester Commodities Group, has vehemently denied allegations that he took part in a dishonest conspiracy that contributed to a \$175 million (£107 million) fraud at Codelco, the Chilean company that is the world's biggest copper producer.

Codelco is suing Mr Vincent and four Winchester companies for damages and compensation, suggesting they paid bribes to Juan Pablo Davila Silva, who until 1994 was Codelco's head futures

trader and is now in a Chilean prison. Codelco demands a full account of the payments made to Señor Davila, and of the profits Winchester made from its dealings with him.

Mr Vincent — who was nicknamed "Copperfingers" by fellow traders — said that these allegations can only have been made on the basis of fabricated evidence. "Winchester regards these allegations as outrageous and intends to vigorously defend itself," he said.

He said he barely knew Señor Davila. "I don't have a relationship and have never had a relationship with Davila. I've met him on two or three occasions at London Metal Exchange functions or copper dinners in New York."

Winchester says it traded with Codelco on only one day in January 1994, buying about 80,000 tonnes of copper.

The Codelco traders have already been subjected to a lengthy investigation by the Securities and Futures Authority, which took no action against Winchester. Codelco is also suing other metal traders that it blames for its losses.

Vincent "vigorous defence"

Tempus, page 26

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer of the Year

Shares recover as George eases interest rate fears

EDDIE GEORGE, Governor of the Bank of England, was a firm favourite with investors after again forecasting that economic growth will slow sharply this year.

That means there will be less pressure for his Independent Monetary Policy Committee to raise rates this week, with inflation coming closer to its 2.5 per cent target level.

His comments hit home in the stock market, where the FTSE 100 index was able to claw back an earlier loss to end the day in positive territory despite an opening setback of almost 85 points on Wall Street. The index made its sixth consecutive gain, closing 1.9 up at 5,264.4 after being 41.7 down at its low point.



Hopes that claims may not be so crushing helped insurers

declining beer sales. GKN celebrated news of capturing a big Comorant helicopter order with the Canadian Government by pushing its shares 48p higher to £13.35.

Positive recommendations from two brokers sweetened Cadbury Schweppes, which ended the day 15p better at 60p. SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, foresees

780p, while Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has added the shares to its list of top ten buys for 1998. Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, takes a more cautious view and has been telling clients to "avoid" Cadbury.

Vodafone, a firm market on Monday on the back of some final quarter subscriber numbers, continued to press ahead, touching 460p before

ending the session 3p lower at 459p. This week's meeting with brokers continued to benefit Hillsdown, the food manufacturer, which responded with a jump of 6p to 155p.

Burton Group, the first of the high street retailers to report on the state of play in the run-up to Christmas, rose 5p to 143p. Brokers seemed pleased with the statement showing like-for-like sales up 7.6 per cent in the 18 weeks to January 3. Burton is to demerge its Debenhams store and trade under the name Arcadia.

Other stores groups responded positively, with Kingfisher adding 13p to 540p, Boots 7p to 907p, DFS Furniture 2p to 410p, and WH Smith 8p to 400p.

Clinton Cards celebrated some bullish comments with a rise of 6p to 105p. The recent rally in Reflex, which has seen the price come up from a low of 9p, showed signs of dissipating as it retreated 4p to 14p. Last year the group, which makes reflective ink for clothing, reached a peak of 123p but was hit by a subsequent profits warning.

Warner Estates put on 2p to 258p in response to a "buy" recommendation from ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, which has set a target price of 40p. Chiroscience stood out with a jump of 12p to 249p. British Biotech rose 8p to 113p amid speculation it is about to get approval for one of its drugs. The company says it is too premature.

GILT-EDGED: Eddie George's comments enabled conventional issues to rally strongly towards the close, but left index-linked issues nursing falls of more than £1. Last year's five rate rises appear to have done the trick in bringing inflation under control.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose £11.50 to £123 as a total of 67,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 2p to £124.12, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 gained 1p to £102.12.

NEW YORK: Shares received mixed news in negative territory in early trading, hampered by weakness in the oil sector and concerns about Asia-related earnings revisions. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 78.47 lower at 7,900.52.

Oil shares were marked lower at the outset reflecting similar falls overnight among oil companies in the US. Falls were seen in Enterprise Oil, 12p to 574p, Laster 9p to 265p, and Cairn Energy 4p to 492p.

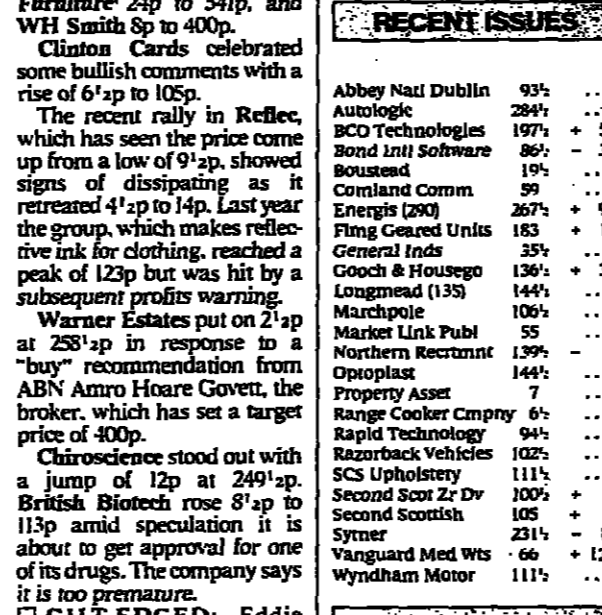
At the heart of the problem is the falling price of crude following the decision of Opec to raise production by 10 per cent. At one stage the price of Brent crude for February delivery touched \$15.75 a barrel. Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, responded by moving its stance on the sector to

"neutral" from "undervalued", and its stance on British Petroleum, down 4p to 765p, to a "hold" from a "buy".

John Toalster, at SocGen, has also downgraded his oil price forecast for this year from \$17.80 to \$17 a barrel.

But a second broker, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, has reiterated its "overweight" stance, naming Shell, 22p lower at 426p, as its main play in the sector. But each dollar fall in the oil price reduces Shell's earnings by 4p and that of BP by 7p cent.

Oil companies follow crude price lower



Oil shares were marked lower at the outset reflecting similar falls overnight among oil companies in the US.

Table of recent issues: Abbey Nat Dublin, Autologic, BCO Technologies, Bond Int Software, etc.

Table of rights issues: Boyle Int n/p (500) 38 1/2 - 7

Table of major changes: Royal & Sun Al, Chorlton, Gr Portland, etc.

Table of major indices: New York (midday), Dow Jones, S&P Composite, etc.

Table of London financial futures: Long Gilt, German Gov Bond, etc.

Table of money rates: Prime Bank Bills, Treasury Bills, etc.

Table of European money deposits: Currency, 1 day, 3 months, etc.

Table of gold/precious metals: Bullion, Gold, Silver, etc.

Table of sterling spot and forward rates: Mkt Rates, 1 month, 3 months, etc.

LEMPUS

Mutually beneficial?

WHEN it was preparing to shed its mutual status and float on the stock market, Norwich Union had to convince the courts that joining the ranks of the pils would not mean lower returns for its with-profit policyholders. The strongest argument put forward for demutualising was that it would have greater freedom to seek out homes for policyholders' funds so that the returns would be better.

Having been a quoted company for just six months, it is too early to tell whether Norwich Union's new-found freedoms will help it to produce better returns. Meanwhile, like other insurers, it is grappling with the challenges of falling interest rates as EMU approaches and the expectation that dividend yields will continue to decline, making it more difficult to maintain annual bonuses in the future.

The insurer is keen to reassure policyholders that in the future if they cash in their policies early they will still receive a proportion of the final bonuses being stored up for them. But policyholders will gradually lose some of the security of being given substantial annual bonuses which cannot be taken away.

Good news for policyholders who qualified for NU shares and still hold them is that the high level of maturity payouts announced yesterday indicates the company is in robust financial health.

The market, still buoyed by expectations of mergers in the financial services industry, is hopeful that a takeover premium will eventually be paid. Policyholders disappointed with cuts in their bonus rates are likely to receive greater comfort in the coming months from the outperformance of the share price.

Gold THE irony about the rout in the gold market is that the metal is in short supply. Mined production and scrap recovery yield about 3,000 tonnes per year while demand for jewellery and bar hoarding, totals about 3,500 tonnes annually.

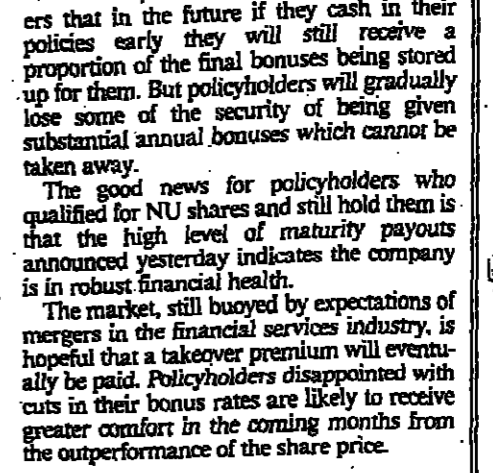
That will afford them little comfort if they fail to shut down unprofitable mines. Some 400 tonnes, about 20 per cent of Western gold mining output probably needs to be cut. Producers could use their hedged positions to cut output and buy

spot gold to meet contractual commitments but few companies are so bold. The market could receive a further jolt in May when the European Central Bank announces what role gold will play in its reserves. Anything less than 10 per cent will be a disappointment, and gold has fewer and fewer friends in central banks.

JLI INVESTORS who saw their JLI shares trading at more than 130p a few years ago will be understandably reluctant to accept a measly 66p per share offer from a team of directors and venture capitalists. But it could have been so much worse.

JLI has been described as a dog of a company, which has spent nearly a year disappointing shareholders with poor results and, until yesterday, dead-end negotiations with potential bidders. Its high turnover operations have been hampered by money, and all that remains are a handful of quirky but dull food businesses.

Why the present management, who have presided over this mess, should feel they can now take JLI private and turn it around is a question best left to the venture capitalists. The best that can be said about the ability of Tony Orvis et al to



Lacklustre Gold price from 1970 to 1998

make a silk purse out of JLI is that it is far from proven. Shareholders should view the MBO offer as disappointing but reasonable under the circumstances. After all, it's a safe way to exit a dreadful investment with some cash. It's still worth waiting until the acceptance date - January 27 - but a rival offer is highly unlikely.

Scottish Highland SCOTTISH Highland Hotels, as Hamish Crossart, the chairman, admits, is a "wee company" that is never going to take the hotel sector by storm, but it manages to attract a strong following nevertheless.

Some of that can be put down to the Scottish "mafia", who like to support their own, but its results yesterday indicate that the company is doing exactly what it promised at the time of its flotation in October 1996.

The fact that it got its float away at all was something of a miracle, as the City had by then had its fill of hotel new issues such as Thistle and Jarvis Hotels. The larger Principal Hotels, which was doing the rounds at exactly the same time as SHH, was forced to shelve its own plans at the last minute.

Much of the credit for the turnaround of the once moribund company must go to Mr Crossart, a respected Edinburgh financier brought in five years ago. Until the flotation, his efforts went into selling ten of the group's 16 hotels to focus on the quality four-star market, but careful expansion is now on the agenda along the lines of October's £13 million move south of the border.

Its size makes SHH vulnerable to a downturn, but 1998 pre-tax profits of £4.7 million (£3.45 million) and 13.6p of earnings would put the shares on a forward multiple of less than ten times. Carny shareholders will be staying put.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, featuring the text 'Consumption by char...' and 'with scare'.

# To cut or not to cut, that will be the quest

The Bank of England has long conducted a wistful search for the Holy Grail of monetary credibility. Only when the public take the Bank's determination to fight inflation seriously will the economy bear the fruits of relative price stability in the form of lower long-term interest rates and the days of boom and bust will be over, the Bank never tires of telling us.

"hard landing" for the economy, with growth slowing very sharply this year and unemployment turning upwards. The risk, the pessimists argue, is that tight monetary policy, with sterling remaining strong for a while and interest rates rising further, coupled with a continuing squeeze on public spending and higher taxes, represents overall.



JANET BUSH

Economists are inveterate worriers. They get most jittery when the macroeconomy is swimming along nicely, precisely because that is the time when they are least likely to be listened to. Under Kenneth Clarke, the Merry Chancellor, they were concerned that his refusal to bow to Bank pressure to raise rates before the election would lead to an inflationary boom. Gordon Brown, the self-styled Iron Chancellor, stands accused of being far too obsessed with inflation and of risking an unnecessarily sharp slowdown.

For his part, Mr Brown's decision to raise rates on arriving in office, coupled with his transfer of monetary policy to the MPC thereafter, has so far been vindicated. The Bank has done the job it was asked to do, the economy seems to be slowing and, for all the feverish debate about whether there will be one more rate rise, and whether it comes tomorrow at the end of the MPC meeting or in February, everybody agrees that rates are very near their peak. Current arguments are about monetary minutiae.

Talk of a "hard landing", most good years for British shares on the back of rallying bond prices and a flight to quality from Asia. What we must hope is that the MPC, under the influence of the outsiders appointed by Mr Brown's Treasury, will prove as willing to cut rates if the economy slows too sharply as it has been to raise them.

# Consumers catch out retailers by changing shopping habits

Chris Ayres and Jennifer Hanawald look at what the latest trends mean



Retailers have moved the starting dates of their sales as shopping patterns alter, but customers are still going on a spree

K nightsbridge in London will be under siege this morning as the Harrods January sale begins. Members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will not be able to join the bargain hunters but, as they begin their monthly contemplation of interest rates, they will be paying particular attention to the scale of the country's bargain hunting, and indications of whether spending is slowing down.

A month ago retailers were indicating that shoppers had almost declared a strike and there were fears that the vital Christmas trading period would be a disaster. But on yesterday's evidence, the gloom was unjustified. Both Burton and Clinton produced respectable levels of seasonal growth and the money supply figures suggest that they were not alone in experiencing an uplift.

However, consumers have not spread their largesse across the high street. Mike Nicholson, head of Knickerbox, must have felt a significant lack of seasonal goodwill when his underwear chain collapsed on Christmas Eve because of poor trading.

Undoubtedly there has been some displacement of spending from December to the January sales, with some retailers so keen to cash in on it that they have chopped their prices in the week before the holiday. But it seems that while the pattern may be changing, the enthusiasm for a spree in December and January remains intact.

Shopping centres and department stores have been adamant that even the week-end's bad weather did not stop customers flocking to the aisles. Although cynics often claim that retailers and the press make a disproportionate fuss over consumer spending every Christmas, 1997 was undoubtedly

unusual. It began with billions of pounds in windfall payments and the threat of an overheating economy. Despite repeated interest rate rises, a Christmas shopping boom was widely expected.

More predictions of a surge in festive spending came after mild autumn weather held back sales of winter clothing, and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, emptied the country's high streets for almost a week.

When, in early December, the Christmas boom had not arrived, the City braced itself for plunging share prices and bankruptcies. However, Nigel Hall, finance director of Burton Group, denied that retailers had only themselves to blame. "If the sector was hyped, I don't think it would have been the retailers who created that hype," he said.

As yesterday's trading statement from Burton Group suggests, the anxiety experienced by retailers was, to some extent, unjustified. The group, which includes Top Shop, Dorothy Perkins and Debenhams — soon to be demerged — saw like-for-like sales grow 7.6 per cent in the Christmas period.

## Health scare

BUPA, the private healthcare business, has found a novel way of paying for all those nursing homes it bought before Christmas. An advertisement in another newspaper offers a telephone helpline giving "information from medical experts on over 200 subjects". But the ten subjects Bupa has highlighted, and provided a direct-dial code for, are sexual and personal problems. Hernia repair is the only one I feel like mentioning over breakfast. As for the others, it's a wonder some of the things us chaps in particular worry about. And what are

they supposed to do over the phone if you think your... anyway, the calls are charged at a rate of 49p per minute, about what you pay for one of those sex chat lines that gets diverted through Moldova or wherever.



"It's solid gold. You cheapskate!"



**Fire ship**  
THE Banque Internationale Luxembourg has come to the support of *The Times*. Not this one, but *The Tresco Times*, a fine publication put out by the inhabitants of this member of the Scilly Isles, and the link is one forged on the playing fields of Eton and strengthened in the gales of the mid-Atlantic. The Bill team, which included the bank's managing director, Edward Charlton, won the 1997 Fastnet yacht race. He was at Eton with Robert Dorrain-Smith, whose family live on the island. Charlton often spends his holidays on and around Tresco, and he came up with the idea

of sponsoring the local paper as a way of attracting private banking business from locals. I have the latest copy of *The Tresco Times*, and hot stuff it is. Or it would have been, had the chief executive of the Isles of Scilly Council had his way, because he decreed recently that all copies should be burned. The council is in dispute with the paper over its reporting of the demise of the aptly named *Albatros*, a luxury liner that ran aground last spring. As anyone who has worked on one will know, only on a local paper could tempers have run quite so high.

**Sporty spice**  
THERE is definitely nothing happening on the stock market, because the new year has seen a sharp upsurge of business at the two financial spread-betting firms IC Index and City Index. The latter is

suggesting the FTSE 100 index will be between 5,178 and 5,188 and the Dow Jones 7,987 to 8,001 by March 20, not much changed from where they are now, while sterling is predicted to be DM 2.9375-2.9415 by March 11. Under the spread betting system, bulls and bears are invited to take positions either side of these figures.

But City brokers are, as usual, not confining their bets to the purely financial. I see we can at least expect to see less of the Spice Girls in the coming year. Money is going on how many weeks they will be at number one in 1998. City index is suggesting five to six weeks, half the level forecast 12 months ago.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Pre-Christmas sales may inspire mood of revenge among shoppers

From Mr R.A. Bedingfield, Sir, I think you may find that Christmas shoppers are taking revenge on shops that have pre-Christmas sales (Christmas shoppers feeling the pinch, *The Times*, December 4).

From Mrs Valerie Fowler, Sir, I can tell you in a nutshell why the retail business is not flourishing — for at least the last 15 years, I and many others, have seen the sales starting even before Christmas. I have extremely wealthy friends whose children are requesting no presents on Christmas Day but money to go to the sales. I deplore the spirit and wish we could return to more modest returns. Yours faithfully, VALERIE FOWLER, Altonfields, Tandridge Road, Warmingham, Surrey.

### PRP apathy indicates weak labour market

From Mr Richard Eames, Sir, The report on the gradual abolition of tax relief on profit-related pay ("Not so prosperous new year", *Weekend Money*, December 27) indicated that companies were not generally planning to compensate employees for the drop in their earnings. Since, however, in the vast majority of cases, PRP was brought in by companies as a substitute for a cost-of-living pay rise and they have benefited from this ever

since, they ought to be replacing it with a salary increase equivalent to the rate of inflation in the year of its introduction. The fact that there appears to be no pressure from employees or unions for such a measure suggests the labour market remains, at least for most of us, very weak. Yours faithfully, RICHARD EAMES, 24 East Downs Road, Bawdon, Altrincham, Cheshire.

### Gloom over De Beers sales cuts no ice

From Mr Michael Moore, Sir, According to your Business section today (December 22) De Beers "is expected to paint a gloomy picture of prospects when it releases 1997 sales figures". Diamond sales are forecast to drop from last year's \$4.8 billion to \$4.6 billion. Gloomy news indeed, which

puts our own problems in perspective, but in this supposed season of joy and hope it is really necessary for your business editor to scour company reports for such tales of despair? Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MOORE, 20 Woodfield Close, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

### Will Isas offer fair shares for sales staff?

From Mr F. P. Thornton, Sir, Are the supermarket checkout counters at which the punters will be able to buy equities for their Isas going to be staffed by persons authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986? As a partner in a firm of chartered accountants that has reams of paperwork to

enable compliance with the requirements of the Act, I await with interest how selling Isas at supermarkets will be regulated under the Act. Yours faithfully, F. P. THORNTON, Failand, 7 The Ridge, Walton on the Naze, Essex.

### Annual inflation growth is more than 4.4%

From Mr S. E. Scammell, Sir, The rate of inflation last year (ie, since the January figure) is over 4.4 per cent per annum. Is it not odd that discussions in the press regarding interest rates never mention this? It will evidently

soon begin to appear in the favoured (but less relevant) month-on-month figure. Yours faithfully, S. E. SCAMMELL, Clouds Estate, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Letters to The Times Business section may be sent by fax to 0171 782 5112 or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

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- City tour and services of a tour manager
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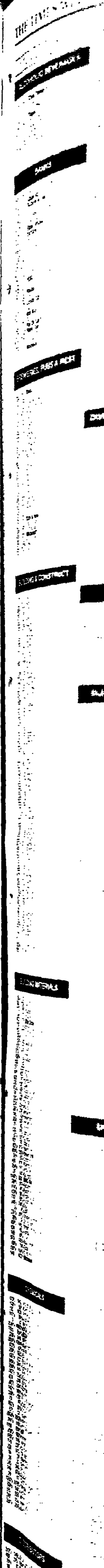
CHANGING TIMES

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ASB ROYAL UNIT TRUST LTD, ASB EQUITY UNIT TRUST LTD, ASB FUND MANAGERS LTD, and others.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ASB EQUITY UNIT TRUST LTD, ASB FUND MANAGERS LTD, ASB INVESTMENT MANAGERS, and others.

Table of unit trust prices for various funds including ASB INVESTMENT MANAGERS, ASB FUND MANAGERS LTD, ASB EQUITY UNIT TRUST LTD, and others.

Advertisement for Compaq Planet Microsoft, featuring the text 'Are you selling on the Internet yet? Let us help you.' and contact information for Compaq Planet Microsoft.



Equities stage late rally

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices categorized by sector: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING & CONSTRUCT, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, OTHER FINANCIAL, MEDIA, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TEXTILES & APPAREL, TRANSPORT, WATER.

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Table of financial data: BRITISH FUNDS, SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, INDEX-LINKED (no projected inflation of).

APUS beneficial



# Maple leaf forever morbid

Canada's film-makers are making an impact on the dark side to the Hollywood dream, says Carol Allen

While not causing quite the same degree of controversy as David Cronenberg's *Crash*, fellow Canadian Lynn Stopkewich's first film *Kissed* has made waves because of its theme: necrophilia. Based on a short story by the Canadian author Barbara Gowdy, it features a heroine so fascinated by death that she takes a job in a funeral parlour in order to explore her obsession.

Stopkewich's film shares its morbid theme with 29-year-old Thom Fitzgerald's first feature, *The Hanging Garden*, which deals with a young man's return home for his sister's wedding ten years after he left following a failed suicide attempt — which may not have actually been a failed suicide attempt.

Difficult though it is for Canadian films, particularly first ones, to get a showing on domestic screens dominated by Hollywood product, both *Kissed* and *The Hanging Garden* have enjoyed considerable commercial and critical success at home. Last month they each won Genies — a Canadian version of the Oscars. The other major winner was *The Sweet Hereafter*, by the established film-maker Atom Egoyan. Seen in Britain last autumn, *The Sweet Hereafter* is an equally dark tale about the aftermath of a bus crash which kills most of the children in a small community.

Egoyan's film has a darkness which both younger film-makers see as an important element in Canadian film. Trying to understand and define our identity is a huge Canadian preoccupation," Stopkewich says. "I think we tend to do it by virtue of our difference from the Americans. That's reflected in the kinds of films we're making. I keep getting the question 'What's with all these weird Canadian films, all this dark subject-matter?' and I think part of the reason is that we realise we can't compete with the Americans, we don't want to, and therefore we have more latitude to explore stories from a different perspective."

Although there is now a considerable film industry in Canada, with Vancouver currently the third largest production centre in North America, some 95 per cent of that work is for American television, such as *The X-Files*, and movies. Toronto, for example, frequently does duty as New York while part of *The Jackal*, with Bruce Willis, also opening this week, was filmed in Montreal. In *The Edge* (starring Anthony Hopkins and Alec Baldwin) the Rocky Mountain range in Alberta was used for Alaska; while the Ontario-born director James Cameron returned to Canada to shoot the contemporary "wraparound" sequences for *Titanic* off the coast of Halifax.

"We have learnt about production values and the scale of the story from all the American productions here," says Fitzgerald. "But where in the past we would try to emulate the American movie plots, I think we've really begun to look inward for a non-Hollywood approach to film-making."

Fitzgerald was born and raised in New York State, but moved to Nova Scotia several years ago and became a Canadian citizen. And though he is now in touch with his family, like the hero in *The Hanging Garden* he experienced a period of estrangement. "Part of the reason that I wanted to make the movie and started writing the script was out of a feeling that I wanted to reconnect with my own family."

The thrust of Fitzgerald's film is to examine the ghosts of our past selves, which are ever present in our lives and relationships, and to that end he has scenes where the hero is on screen simultaneously as a child, a teenager and an adult. "We see memories in films, with flashbacks all the time," he says. "I wanted to do something that was more like my perception of memory. When I go home and I walk into that room where I spent the first ten years of my life, I see myself lying in that same bed. So I figured, if the camera would see us both."

Stopkewich believes that *Kissed*, despite its macabre subject-matter, is at heart a more universal tale. "This particular story is one of Gowdy's most infamous, and when I told her I wanted to make it into a film she warned me that I could forever after be known as the necrophile filmmaker. But I was willing to take the risk because I thought that the story was much more than that.

"It's really a love story about her relationship with a medical student, who challenges her passion and asks all the kind of questions about who she is that we want to ask. It has a surreal, fairytale quality about it."

What has shocked many people far more than the explicit but poetically shot scenes of actual necrophilia in *Kissed* are the graphic sequences showing the embalming of corpses. "I think that's because it brings us up against an inescapable part of who we are," Stopkewich says. "We're all going to die; there's no way you can cheat death. Before I made this film I was frightened of death and that was part of the challenge that I tried to create for myself. Now I see death as something that enhances my life, because I realise I'm not going to be here forever and I can't take the time that I have for granted."

"It's no coincidence that I had just turned 30 when I found this story and it really resonated for me because I was just starting to deal with some of those ideas."

The success of *Kissed* has meant that Stopkewich in particular has been inundated with offers from Hollywood. But both she and Fitzgerald are for the moment choosing to stay in Canada.

"Right now I'm the young whippersnapper who came out of the blue and I've had wonderful support from the Canadian film community," Stopkewich says. "I need to have some measure of control over my work and develop my strength as a filmmaker before I get in with those Hollywood boys."

● *Kissed* opens in London on Friday; *The Hanging Garden* is scheduled for release in the spring



"Death enhances my life, because I'm not going to be here forever and I can't take the time that I have for granted," says Lynn Stopkewich, the director of the necrophilia movie *Kissed*

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament  
DAVID JEAN-BAPTISTE

Profession: Jazz reeds player and composer.

Age: 29.

Not another raging tenor saxophonist? No, he specialises in the bass clarinet, alto sax and E flat clarinet.

Where can we hear him? On the tuneful new album *Feeling Tones*, released on the Candid label. And at the Jazz Café, London next Monday.

Is he part of Courtney Pine's Jazz Warriors generation? He did play with the big band but he also had a thorough classical training with the London Schools Symphony Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta. Later he studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music.

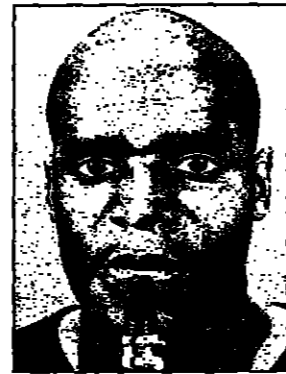
So he could have become a "straight" musician? Perhaps, if he hadn't heard John

Coltrane and Eric Dolphy at an impressionable age. "Funnily enough, I've found that my classical playing is a lot better since I've been concentrating on jazz."

What do the Americans make of him? Cult saxophonist David Murray was sufficiently impressed to invite him to New York to gain some exposure with the likes of the hip Mingus Big Band.

How important is his West Indian ancestry? Very. "I put myself under the microscope in the last few years because I felt there was a purpose that I wasn't fulfilling. I'm not an American, I'm British. It was important to accept that I inhabit the territory where Europe meets the Caribbean."

So he'll continue to put that into practice? He's made



field trips to his parents' part of the world in order to gather material. And he's also working on a proposed book about making music. "I'm interested in the methodology. I want to ask people like Pat Metheny and Wynton Marsalis how they prepare for a concert, what they think about in the shower, how they manage time. All the important and little things that go to make a good performance."

CLIVE DAVIS

## We can't compete with America; we don't want to

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## HERITAGE: A French chateau could soon lose its spectacular contents. Marcus Binney reports

# A luxury Europe can and should afford

In Britain, country house sales are almost part of the social calendar. In France they haven't had time since the Revolution. So Sotheby's jubilation at securing the sale of the fabulous and virtually unknown Chateau de Groussay near Versailles is understandable. The chateau and park are for sale through Sotheby's estates department; this will be followed in the autumn by an auction of all the contents.

For Sotheby's this is the key to entry into the Paris auction market, long the preserve of French firms. Now Brussels has ruled that this auction monopoly must end. But if the French Government continues to prevaricate — not least because of a suggested £200 million compensation that must be paid to 400 lucky staff of the French auction houses), Sotheby's will hold the sale in Monaco, where it has operated for 20 years.

But while attention has focused on this clash of saleroom titans, no one has pointed to the scale of the tragedy about to unfold at Groussay. If one European chateau were to stand for all that is most imaginative, enchanting and influential in European taste in the second half of the 20th century, it must be this. Groussay is not simply a time capsule, like the National Trust's Calke Abbey or Erdig; it is the greatest *total ensemble* of our age, evidenced not only in every salon and bedroom, but in every corridor and closet.

The Spanish-born Charles de Beistegui, educated at Eton and Corpus Christi, Cambridge, had a golden life. Best known for giving the "party of the century" — a costumed ball at the Palazzo Labia in Venice in 1951 — he commissioned Le Corbusier to design him a penthouse on the Champs-Élysées. His parents had a luxurious mansion in Paris, where he spent most of his life, and his uncle is remembered for his magnificent gift of paintings to the Louvre, including Goya's *Marquessa de la Solana* in 1943.

In 1939 Beistegui bought Groussay, which had been built for the Duchess of Charost in 1815. It stands in near perfect seclusion in 120 acres of landscaped grounds sloping down to a lake on the edge of the handsome and unspoilt village of Montfort L'Amaury. Thanks to his Spanish diplomatic status, Beistegui lived there in comfort during the Second World War. While the Allies were launching the invasion of Normandy, he was planning the most lavish of all country house theatres.

From 1950 until his death in 1970 Beistegui and his architect friend, the Cuban Terry Emilio, filled the park with delightful follies: a Palladian bridge almost as beautiful as that at Stowe; a Chinese pagoda on an island; a blue-and-white striped Turkish tent made in metal like that at Drottningholm in Sweden. In 1952 he added wings to the chateau.

The gardens are more the creation of Beistegui's nephew, Juan, who inherited the house on his uncle's death and has maintained it immaculately ever since. He laid them out with a disciple of the great Lanning Roper, with a garden theatre made of hedges and

harlequin statues. The follies and park, now protected as *monuments classés* (the French equivalent of Grade I listing), will survive. The worry is over the interiors, which will be denuded of pictures, furniture, carpets and hangings which in many cases are virtually part of the architecture.

Conscious of this, Juan de Beistegui is offering the chateau for sale before the contents, so that a future owner has the opportunity to buy some of them at auction. More than this, he wants the theatre and adjoining Goya gallery, with spectacular tapestries woven after Goya cartoons, to remain complete with furnishings.

Virtually every table in the chateau is cluttered with objects, while paintings, prints and drawings hang in three tiers or, in the library, in seven. "He had a three-dimensional sense," Juan says of his uncle. "As soon as he went into an empty room he could picture how it could be." Even the doors of the library are turned into glass showcases for bronzes and gift medals.

Charles de Beistegui had a fantastic eye for textiles; every bedroom has brilliantly col-

oured en suite fabrics and many rooms have spectacularly bold specially woven carpets. The three tiers of balconies in the theatre are hung with festoons of thick red damask, with deep fringes and velvet bows.

This is a chateau which should be saved complete, not just for France, but for Europe as a whole. But there is no chance that the French Government will intervene, and France, of course, has no National Trust. The Caisse Nationale des Monuments

Historiques, which runs a number of chateaux open to the public, is now under such pressure that it would not accept the gift of a house and all its contents, even if it came with an endowment.

Groussay needs a *Maezon* to buy it intact. A more fascinating and complete document of the tastes of our age will never be on offer. If the European Union has any cultural pretensions, it should find the means of saving this astonishing example of a Europe without frontiers.



The library at Groussay, furnished by Charles de Beistegui in the opulent, even cluttered, style of the rest of the chateau

THE TIMES PRESENTS

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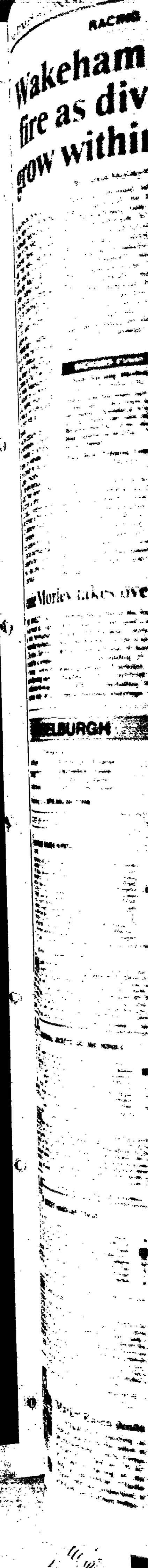
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هكنا من الأهل

Wakeham under fire as divisions grow within BHB

By CHRIS McGRATH

IT REMAINS the most civil of wars, but there is no doubt of the increasing rancour dividing those at the tiller of that storm-tossed vessel, British racing. Peter Savill, the most militant voice on the British Horseracing Board (BHB), yesterday stopped short of backing calls for the resignation of its chairman, Lord Wakeham — but left little room for doubt where his sympathies lay.

A working party, chaired by Savill, is putting the finishing touches to a financial plan for racing, details of which have been leaked to The Times in recent weeks. Wakeham has since accused its authors of political naivete, dismissing their work as too impractical to be more than a "set of aspirations".

Savill has intimated that the leaks were intended to discredit his proposals in advance. Yesterday, he sounded very much as though he considers Wakeham's criticisms to be part of the same agenda.

Racing's trade papers yesterday carried a letter from Gerald Leigh, a breeder and outgoing member of the BHB Industry Committee. Expressing "astonishment at Lord Wakeham's behaviour", Leigh argued that the chairman had lost the support of the industry in general — and now of the Board in particular.

Wakeham promptly refuted Leigh's claim that the Savill plan had already been "approved in principle by the BHB, subject to the consent of the Industry Committee, which was given unanimously." At yesterday's annual general meeting of the "The Oughbourn Breeders' Association (TBA), however, Savill lent emphatic support to Leigh's version of events. While he did not urge Wakeham to fall on his sword, he certainly sharpened the blade.

RICHARD EVANS

Napier Springs Rhythm (2.10 Musselburgh) — Sprung Rhythm made light of a two-year absence when easily beating a number of Windor's six-day-olds, and Kian Bailey's handler looks more than capable of making a 7lb penalty handicap.

Next best Singing Sand (3.10 Musselburgh) —

Savill said: "I must reiterate my clear understanding that the Board agreed by a vote on December 16 to support the plan." He went on to say that the industry Committee had been "fundamentally unanimous", with only one member unhappy with one aspect of the plan.

Calling for the exposure — and resignation — of those responsible for the leak of confidential drafts, Savill added that he detected "a very heavy political atmosphere at the moment".

He said: "It's a pity, because the investment in this industry is not just saying that I'm not happy with the leaks, and with Lord Wakeham's discussions with the Press. Neither are helpful to what we're trying to achieve."

He hesitated, however, to follow Leigh's logic to the point where Wakeham should resign. "I'm not going that far," he said. "I'm a member of the BHB, which has to decide how it wants to move forward with the financial plan. These things tend to develop. I'm not saying he should resign at this point, but just saying that I'm not happy with the leaks, and with Lord Wakeham's discussions with the Press. Neither are helpful to what we're trying to achieve."

As an outsider, Wakeham tries to offer racing a touch of pragmatism. Many in racing, on the other hand, believe that his involvement, being literally part-time, reflects a corresponding lack of due commitment. During the TBA meeting, Leigh made pointed reference to the responsibility of those who were truly "shareholders in the industry" to improve its administration. He called for people with the "experience, commitment and talent to understand its problems and needs" — and warned darkly that if the BHB could not be made to work more effectively, "there are other options open to us". It is perhaps significant that this followed a suggestion from the floor that owners, trainers, breeders and racecourses could abandon the BHB altogether, and demand Parliament's renewed intervention.

Melanie Morley takes over

MELANIE MORLEY will step into the breach at High Havens stable, Newmarket, after the death of her husband, David. The Jockey Club yesterday granted her a temporary training licence applicable to Flat racing only. Morley, 58, died on Monday of a heart attack while on a

shooting weekend at the Yorkshire home of Lord and Lady Halifax. He trained Celeric to win last season's Gold Cup at Royal Ascot and had 45 horses in his care, including 27 for leading owner Hamdan al-Maktoum. He is survived by five children, including two from a previous marriage.



Champion Hurdle hope Grey Shot was yesterday given the go-ahead by trainer Ian Balding to run in the Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday after pleasing in a schooling session under Richard Dunwoody

Ludlow ground proves unsafe

THE safety of the chase course came under fire at Ludlow yesterday when Clifton Beat stumbled and unshipped Richard Dunwoody on the flat in the New Year Novices' Chase. After complaints from Dunwoody, the stewards inspected the track straight on the chase course where the incident happened — after the sixth fence from home — before deciding it was unsafe to go ahead with the remaining two chases. Dunwoody said: "There's a hole at least 18 inches deep. My horse is lucky not to have broken a leg and I'm not prepared to ride over that part of the course again."

"We resited all the fences in the back straight over the summer and there appears to be an old rabbit hole where the third fence in the back straight used to be and the recent wet weather meant the horse unfortunately put his foot in it. It is not possible to bypass the fence because of the wet ground, but we'll make sure that there are no more unforeseen holes in that part of the course before the next meeting."

The Lingfield racecourse executive was fined £1,000 at a Jockey Club inquiry yesterday for effectively misleading the racing industry and the betting public. The management admitted it was at fault over the incident on October 3 last year when the rails on the straight course were moved by approximately 15 feet and the starting stalls transferred to the far side.

John Masze, the Jockey Club's public relations officer, said: "The size of the fine, I believe, demonstrated the committee's concern that action was not taken earlier to rail off the unsafe ground, and consequently the participants and betting public were given what turned out to be misinformation regarding the important factor of the safety of the stalls and the draw."

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 12.40 Badge of Fame, 1.10 Master Hyde, 1.40 Seldom But Severe.

Timekeeper's top ratings: 2.10 SPRUNG RHYTHM.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 12.40 PRESTON TOWER MAIDEN HURDLE, 1.10 MASTER HYDE.

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RACELINE advertisement with phone number 0930 1684 and website URL.

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Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 3.30 BLIZZARD SELLING STAKES.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 4.00 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANICAP.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 4.30 SANDSTORM AMATEUR RIDERS HANICAP.

Table with 2 columns: Race Name, Time. Includes 2.30 MOONSON HANICAP.

SQUASH

Britons fall short of Egyptian standard

By COLIN McQUILLAN

RESULTS from the Commercial Union British junior open championship finals at Abbeydale Park in Sheffield yesterday made it too clear why the Sports Council has agreed to a £1.7 million grant to English squash, aimed specifically at raising the elite standard.

Both under-14 titles went to Egypt, where the prominence of their two successive world junior champions, Ahmed Barada and Ahmed Faizy, has triggered enormous interest and investment in the sport.

Yasser El Halaby allowed his unseeded compatriot, Esam El Homosany, just two points in the boys' under-14 final. Omneya El Kawy dropped the first game to Alison Waters, of Middlesex, but won 6-0, 9-1, 9-4, 9-0.

The girls' under-16 title went to Nicol David, of Malaysia, who last year won the under-14 championship. She again showed outstanding technique and a perfection of movement that put her where she needed to be in almost every rally as she defeated Amina Hally, of Lancashire, 9-3, 9-0, 9-0.

Malaysia also provided two under-19 finalists in Leong Siu Lynn, who was due to meet Tania Bailey, of Lincolnshire, last night, and Ong Beng Hee, who was due to play John Russell, of Kent, in the Drysdale Cup final, also last night.

Strong investment from the Malaysian Government has been directed into squash in recent years. Competitors of Commonwealth Games medals in Kuala Lumpur next September.

The outer reaches of the Malaysian game have been a lucky hunting ground for lesser-known Pakistani coaches for some time. Recently, Jamie Hickox, an inventive and idiosyncratic Anglo-Canadian, has been the national coach there, and Robyn Cooper, of Australia, has been working to good effect with the leading girls.

As with the Egyptians, the result is an impressive flow of uninhibited and well-coached players who have gained their experience on the burgeoning Asian junior circuit and who this year have exposed Britain's home-grown product as rather cumbersome.

Results page 40

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures including Football, Soccer-Cup, Quarter-finals, and other sports events.

FOOTBALL

Liverpool prepare for final chance

By Matt Dickinson and Richard Hobson

THE chasm that separates Manchester United from their supposed rivals in the FA Cup Premier League will be emphatically underlined tonight when Newcastle United and Liverpool fight tooth and nail over a competition that their Old Trafford rivals barely bothered to enter.

Wright glad to be brother's keeper

Russell Kempson meets the Ipswich Town player who owes his career to sibling rivalry

Richard Wright knew his days as a left back were numbered. Stuart, his elder brother, had had enough in goal and wanted out. Wright Jr swiftly realised what was best for him and readily accepted the No 1 jersey.



Wright will hope to enhance his reputation against Chelsea tonight

Wright, 20, now appreciates the sibling rank-pulling. He is the first-choice Ipswich Town goalkeeper, has already made more than 100 appearances for the National League first division club and will attempt to enhance his reputation further when the cosmopolitan cavaliers of Chelsea visit Portman Road in the quarter-finals of the Coca-Cola Cup this evening.

Stuart always used to be the keeper when we were kids but, one day, he decided he wanted to play outfield and do all the shooting. Wright said: "I had to go in goal. I didn't have a lot of choice in the end, I suppose things haven't turned out too badly."

Delegates throw out drugs ban reduction

FROM CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

THE international governing body of swimming (FINA) yesterday decided to keep a four-year minimum punishment for those who take anabolic steroids and to reward rules to make life more difficult for cheats.

If he develops the way he has done, then he can go all the way

Phil Parkes, the former Queens Park Rangers and England goalkeeper, recognises a special talent for him. Parkes, who coached Wright at Ipswich for three years, said: "He is confident, very receptive and will practise for ever. If he develops the way he has done, he can go all the way."

Applause followed the defeat of the FINA proposal designed to align swimming with other sports and counter the argument that the tougher the penalty, the more likely the legal challenge. After the years of the East German drug-driven medal factory and towards the end of a decade that has seen 22 Chinese swimmers test positive for anabolic steroids, the world's swimming nations were in no mood to compromise.

John Devis, the vice-president of Australian Swimming and an Olympic champion over 100 metres freestyle in 1960, said that FINA should send a "most powerful message to all international sport that swimming was not prepared to disregard the principles of fair play."

Devis, the secretary of the Amateur Federation of Great Britain, said that a change from four years to two years would "not stop legal challenges" and that FINA must ensure that it had robust rules to fight lawyers who make lots of money defending cheats.

Clubs swi replays t league i

Clubs swi replays t league i

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

The technique on today's hand occurs in cross-ruffs in which the declarer needs to avoid being overruled prematurely.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards in S, W, N, E hands.

Contract: Six Diamonds by South. Lead: King of spades

Declarer takes the ace of spades, and crosses the ace and king of clubs, discarding a spade and a heart. How should he continue?

A similar hand occurred at the Brighton Congress this year, but with the North-South diamond holding K Q 6 5 4 2 opposite A 3.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The full scores, after seven rounds, are as follows: Sadler 6; Relange 4 1/2; Rozentalis, Tkachiev and Nunn 3 1/2; Rausis, Plaskett and Heijden 3; Ward and McShane 2 1/2.

Competition For those of you who missed The Times Christmas and New Year competition, here is the puzzle. White to play, this position is from the game Short - Bivias, Hastings 1980.

White: Matthew Sadler Black: James Plaskett Hastings Premier January 1998

Chess board diagram for the puzzle.

Diagram

Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Chess board diagram for the puzzle.

Black to play. From the game Goglidze - Botvinnik, Moscow 1925. Here Black has done everything correct - his bishop dominates the white knight and his rooks are powerfully placed on open files - and now the tactics took over. How did the game finish?

FOR THE RECORD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NSA): Houston 120 Toronto 98; Washington 113 New York 106; San Antonio 74; Orlando 68; Milwaukee 58 Portland 52.

CRICKET

Tour match Kenya v England A

Worcestershire v Kent, 27th Nov: England A have scored 278 for two wickets against Kenya.

Third under-19 one-day international match

South Africa v England CENTURION PARK (South Africa won) South Africa beat England by 50 runs.

ENGLAND UNDER-19

S D Preece c Rudolph b Lomb 13; M Flanagan b Mollath 3; George P J Francis c Street b Mollath 0; D A Sheehy not out 28; G R Napier c Street b Lomb 28; M A Gough not out 58; J C Powell not out 11; J N Wilson c Preece b Lomb 0; P Rudolph b Lomb 0; Extras (b 3, w 12, nb 3) 25.

ENGLAND UNDER-19

FRIMLEY GREEN, Surrey: Embassy world championship. First round: S George (Wales) bt P Harkley (Aus) 3-1; R Carter (Ind) bt C Taylor (Gua) 3-1; R Scholten (Hol) bt C Stamp (Ned) 3-2.

AUTO WINDSCREENS (SHELD): Second round: Northern section: Postponed; Southern section: Postponed; Western section: Postponed; Eastern section: Postponed; London v Bradford, Northernham v Torquay.

NOBLESCOTT LEAGUE

First of 16th round: Postponed in Perth v Ayr.

MANCHESTER LEAGUE

First division: Sunderland v Port Vale 1. Postponed: Wolverhampton v Coventry.

SPANISH LEAGUE

Barcelona 4; Valencia 3; Real Madrid 3; Athletic Bilbao 3; Real Sociedad 3; Espanyol 3; Villarreal 3; Getafe 3; Almeria 3; Leganes 3; Osasuna 3; Deportivo La Coruna 3; Real Betis 3; Real Zaragoza 3; Sevilla 3; Espanyol 3; Real Sociedad 3; Athletic Bilbao 3; Real Madrid 3; Valencia 3; Barcelona 3.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Carolina 4; Ottawa 1; New York 1; Tampa Bay 1; Florida 1; Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 1; Washington 1; Boston 1; Montreal 1; New Jersey 1; Detroit 1; Chicago 1; St Louis 1; Dallas 1; San Jose 1; Vancouver 1; Los Angeles 1; Anaheim 1; San Diego 1; Phoenix 1; Colorado 1; Calgary 1; Edmonton 1; Phoenix 1; Dallas 1; San Jose 1; Vancouver 1; Los Angeles 1; Anaheim 1; San Diego 1; Phoenix 1; Colorado 1; Calgary 1; Edmonton 1.

MOTOR RALLYING

DAKAR RALLY: Stage three (Dakar to Nouadhibout) won by S. Loeb (Citroen).

SAILING

WINDREAR ROUND THE WORLD: Positions after 10 days: Australia 1; New Zealand 2; USA 3; Canada 4; France 5; Italy 6; Spain 7; Germany 8; Portugal 9; South Africa 10; Sweden 11; Norway 12; Denmark 13; Netherlands 14; Belgium 15; Greece 16; Ireland 17; United Kingdom 18; Ireland 19; United Kingdom 20.

SQUASH

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: R. Walden (Eng) bt M. Wasiecki (Pol) 3-0.

SNOW REPORTS

Table with columns: Location, Depth (cm), Conditions, Runs to resort, Weather (Sun, Wind, Snow), Last snow.



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## CRICKET 41

Maddy's century gives England a flying start



## Newcastle in protest over ground

# Stevenage win the right to stage cup-tie

By JOHN GOODBODY

STEVENAGE Borough will stage their FA Cup fourth-round tie against Newcastle United at their home ground, with the giant-killers from the Vauxhall Conference installing 1,400 temporary seats.

demand from both sets of supporters to see the game, but they were refused permission after discussion with police and local authorities.

ter than Kenny does what situations like this can lead to. "We are not wrong on this. Their ground is not big enough to stage a tie of this magnitude. If anybody thinks we are worried about playing there, they can forget it. Talk about the romance of the FA Cup has nothing to do with a situation like this."

## Hinchcliffe takes time to consider transfer

TOTTENHAM HOTSPURS struggle at the wrong end of the FA Cup. Hinchcliffe appears to be the cause of a delay in their attempt to sign Andy Hinchcliffe (Matt Dickinson writes).

Goodison Park, is being sold to fund a rebuilding programme by Howard Kendall, the Everton manager. Gary Speed, who has attracted the interest of Sheffield Wednesday, could be another departure this week, with Everton willing to sell for £6 million.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7 1998



Sailor, the powerful Australia wing, is relishing his new challenge after agreeing to switch from Brisbane Broncos next year.

# Sailor embarks on Wigan adventure

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WITH his gold earrings, Wendell Sailor, the glamour boy of Australian rugby league, cut a piratical figure yesterday as he explained his decision to join Wigan Warriors in 1999.

field, he is a popular children's television presenter. "Originally, I came just to talk, but I was impressed with the club and I like their vision," he said.

because I want to see Brisbane and tell them how it is," he said. "The deal for Sailor, which will put him among the game's top five earners, is a throwback to the Eighties, when Wigan could lure Australians of the calibre of Brett Kenny, John Ferguson and Steve Ella. Those players were one-season wonders, and it is not since the Fifies that a high-profile Australian has committed to the English game for more than one season."

Monie as coach and the return to the club yesterday of Phil Clarke, 26, the injured former Great Britain captain, in an administrative role. "Until the takeover in November, Wigan were reportedly only days away from closure. Surrounded by hills and invoices, we said we needed a Wendell Sailor and now he's here."

## Bradford sack Kamara

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRADFORD CITY, of the Nationwide League first division, dismissed Chris Kamara, their manager, yesterday after a run of poor form in which they have won just four of their past 21 league and cup games.

been far better. Early in the campaign, Bradford led the division and they remain safely established in mid-table. A statement from the club said: "Chris Kamara has been relieved of his duties as manager of Bradford City Football Club with immediate effect."

Kamara has courted controversy during his time at the club, not least this season, when he was cleared of misconduct by the Football Association — although he received a warning — after a brawl in a league game against Portsmouth. Another incident during a recent match against Bury has brought another charge against the club.

## Fearsome warrior of the old school

Michael Henderson mourns the passing of the last member of a cricketing breed

The news from Yorkshire yesterday that David Bairstow had been found hanged at the age of 46 came almost as an offence against nature. If ever a cricketer represented some primeval force, unquenchable in his enthusiasm for the game, and for life, that man was Bairstow and now, eight years after his retirement, he was dead.

hard to come to terms with life as an "ex". His youth had been filled with a passionate commitment to Yorkshire as wicketkeeper, batsman and captain, during an especially turbulent period of the club's history, and a less active life was never likely to appeal.

engine" for his belligerent appearance at the crease. Bairstow seemed to be hewn out of the limestone that shapes the Yorkshire moors. He was an honest, unyielding competitor on the field, and in the bar, when, with a pint in his hand, he left nobody in any doubt as to his thoughts.

Bairstow, quite simply, was the best representative of that famous breed, the Yorkshire Cricketer. Here was a player of the old school, who absorbed the folklore of the world's most celebrated cricket club. He spoke bluntly and freely on his own behalf, but cared deeply about the game and about his club's bright future.

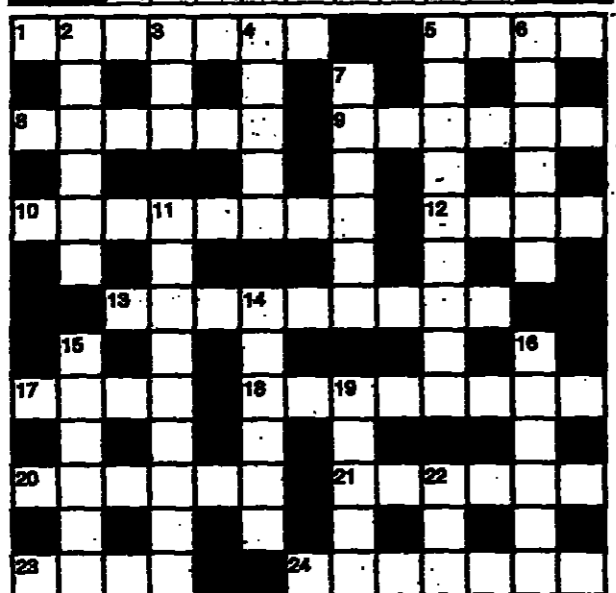


Bairstow: unyielding

There was something of a crusade about the way both men played their sport and the world is a tamer place for their passing. Bairstow's blood and steel did not endear him to many outside Yorkshire, though he was, without doubt, a considerable player.

Tragic death, page 5  
Obituary, page 19

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1296

- ACROSS: 1 Uneasy feeling (7) 5 At this place (4) 8 Officer's servant (6) 9 Prolong (6) 10 An order to attend court (8) 12 Secluded corner (4) 13 Gondoliers Duke (5,4) 17 Dismiss: enthuse (4) 18 France/Spain mountains (8) 20 Regular earnings (6) 21 Evening-dress neckwear (3,3) 23 (Tree) trunk (4) 24 Raging 17 (7)
- DOWN: 2 Counting frame (6) 3 Purpose direct (at target) (3) 4 Burn slightly (5) 6 Non-stop accident (3-3-3) 6 Haphazard (6) 7 One overline in grammar (6) 11 Proceeds of petty theft (9) 14 Light breeze (6) 15 Violent woman (6) 16 Well-intentioned; unthreatening (6) 19 Cock bird, killed by Sparrow (5) 22 Misery (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1295  
ACROSS: 1 Paraphrase 3 Stamina 9 Bugle 10 Oven 11 Stronger 13 Logjam 15 Kindle 17 Plankton 18 Alas 21 Rhine 22 Hearsay 23 Literature  
DOWN: 2 Amaze 3 Amid 4 Hearty 5 Ambrosia 6 Engaged 7 Fearlessly 8 Spoilsport 12 Rack-rent 14 Glacial 16 Kosher 19 Laser 20 Wart

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